

Jordan Times

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Palestinian businessman held in Israeli jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian businessman from the Gaza Strip is being held in an Israeli jail, following his arrest on suspicion of helping Islamist militant suicide bombers infiltrate into Israel, public television reported Thursday. Kamal Hamad, reported to have been arrested several weeks ago, is suspected of being a member of Islamist Jihad — a militant group committed to violent struggle against Israel. The businessman, who possessed a permit allowing him to move freely between the Palestinian territories and Israel, is alleged to have transported potential suicide bombers and explosives in his car. The television said he was being held in a special section of Ashkelon prison in southern Israel run by the internal security agency, Shin Bet.

Senior rabbi meets Hebron mufti over posters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — One of Israel's senior rabbis on Thursday held talks with the Muslim mufti of Hebron to condemn anti-Islamic posters plastered on shops in the West Bank city by a Jewish extremist. "I expressed my condemnation, our regret over these tracts which go against the principles of Judaism," said Eliahu Balshi Doron, a Sephardic grand rabbi, after meeting Sheikh Mahmoud Nizal. Posters insulting Prophet Mohammed prompted violent protests from Palestinians, and a Jewish woman from Jerusalem was later arrested and charged over the incident. "The woman who carried out this action did it to stir up hatred," Rabbi Doron told Israeli Television. The television said members of Hebron's settler community protested against the meeting of the rabbi and the mufti.

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Israeli helicopters attack Palestinians in Lebanon

NAAME, Lebanon (AFP) — Israeli helicopters Thursday launched a missile attack on positions of a Palestinian group south of Beirut, injuring four of members of the organisation, police said. Two helicopters, escorted by warplanes, fired six missiles at the stronghold of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General-Command (PFLP-GC) at Naame, around 20 kilometres south of Beirut, said the sources. They said four PFLP-GC militants were injured, one seriously, and that one of the organisation's political leaders, known as Abu Jaraj, was among the casualties. Earlier Lebanese police reported that it was the warplanes that launched the attack on Naame. PFLP-GC fighters set up a cordon around their positions at Naame and refused to make any comment to reporters after the attack.

Palestinian deaf-mute wounded by Israeli dies

GAZA (AFP) — A deaf and dumb Palestinian boy wounded by Israeli soldiers two weeks ago died on Thursday, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Ibrahim Tawfiq Abu Ruteina, 14, was shot in the head June 22 by soldiers guarding the Israeli Moutag settlement near Rafah, in Gaza autonomous region. He died at Gaza's Shifa Hospital. The victim had not heard warning shots or shouted warnings from soldiers as he walked along a path on territory disputed between Palestinians and Israelis. There have been clashes for several weeks in the sector in the south of the Gaza Strip between Palestinians and Israeli settlers or troops.

Hamas commando escapes from PNA jail

HEBRON (AFP) — A member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) accused of anti-Israeli attacks that left 11 people dead has escaped from a Palestinian prison here, sources said Thursday. Ibrahim Ghanimat, 35, escaped during the last 24 hours in circumstances which remain unclear, according to the sources. Palestinian security forces have begun a search. Ghanimat was arrested by Palestinian police in April after a Hamas cell was dismantled in the village of Surif near the West Bank town of Hebron. Three alleged members of the group are being held by Israel.

Iran attracts 600,000 tourists per year

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 600,000 foreign tourists visited Iran in 1996, generating \$300 million for the Islamic republic, Deputy Culture Minister Hussein Taheri said Friday. Mr. Taheri, who is responsible for tourism, told the official news agency, IRNA, the figure should rise to \$700 million in the next two years. He said 97 hotels of three to five stars and 90 motels were being built to cope with rising tourism figures. Iran attracted 450,000 tourists in 1995 and earned \$250 million. Despite its attractions, such as the ruins of Persepolis and the historic cities of Estahban and Shiraz, the country was practically wiped from the tourism map after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

30,000 Palestinians march in Nablus, 12 injured in Hebron

Combined agency dispatches

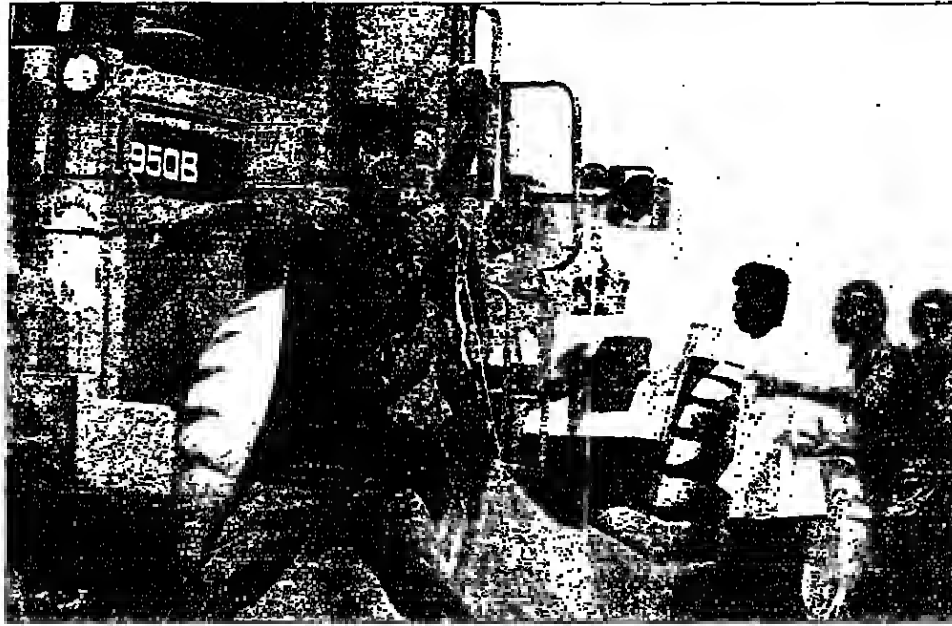
INCENSED BY an anti-Muslim leaflet, Palestinians threw stones and firebombs Friday at Israeli troops in Hebron and some 30,000 demonstrators called for deadly revenge against Israel during a rally in the West Bank town of Nablus. The march was called by Hamas to protest against the leaflet that was distributed by a Jewish extremist in Hebron last week.

"We knock on heaven's door with the skulls of the Jews," read the banner carried by those in the front line of the march.

The Hamas leader in Nablus, Sheikh Jamal Mansour, said there would be a new uprising and more suicide bombings in Israel to avenge what he said was "the humiliation of our prophet."

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 12 Palestinians, one seriously, when they opened fire on young stone-throwers in the West Bank town of Hebron Friday after warning they would get tough on protesters. One of the Palestinians was seriously injured when he was hit in the head by a rubber-coated bullet. Another was shot in the leg by a real bullet, witnesses said.

Palestinian protesters threw petrol bombs and two home-made explosives at Israeli troops guarding Jewish enclaves in the divided



Palestinian Maher Abdel Menem Assar, 18, throws a stone at Israeli forces before he was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier with a bullet to the heart as clashes erupted with protesters, 02 July outside the Gush Katif bloc of Jewish settlements near the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Deir al-Balah (AFP Photo)

town but caused no injuries, witnesses said.

Members of President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement tried to calm the situation down by pushing Palestinians back from settlers' homes and army positions. Jewish settlers, meanwhile, climbed on rooftops in their heavily-guarded enclaves in the heart of the flash point town to rain stones on the Palestinian demonstrators.

The army was on high alert ahead of Muslim prayers Friday, deploying sharpshooters and special units in the town and sealing off the Palestinian-con-

trolled sector to outsiders. The Israeli commander of the region, General Uzi Dayan, told army radio that "tension is extremely high in Hebron."

"We will use a vast array of operational measures to

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Israeli general threatens to kill Palestinians

HEBRON (AFP) — An Israeli general threatened Friday to kill any Palestinian demonstrator who throws gasoline or pipe bombs at his troops in this divided town. "Those who throw explosive devices to kill must understand that they will die, because those are the shooting orders," the commander of Israeli forces in the West Bank, General Gabi Ofir, said in a radio interview. The general called on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to intervene to restore calm, "if not, the price could be heavy." "We have sufficient forces and endurance in Hebron to confront any disorder," General Ofir added.

Palestinian court condemns 3 'Force 17' officers to death

GAZA (R) — A PNA military court on Thursday sentenced three Palestinian officers to death by firing squad over the killing of a Gaza man held in custody by an elite unit that guards Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat must approve the death sentence.

It was the first time a military court had imposed the death penalty on Palestinian security officers for killing a civilian in detention.

Major Fathi Freihat and two other Force 17 members, Mahmoud Zayyid and Wael Ghanem, were accused of causing the death last month of Nasser Radwan, 28, a killing which the charge

sheet said "incited the masses" against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"The accused are convicted of the charges and sentenced to death by firing squad," said Colonel Ismail Shaf'i, who headed the special military court that tried the officers.

Three other Force 17 men arrested after Radwan was beaten unconscious in Gaza last month received jail sentences in the same proceedings.

Two were sentenced to five years in jail, another was given a six-month term and two were acquitted.

Palestinian officials said the security men had illegally arrested Radwan for

allegedly harassing the wife of one of them.

It was the tenth death sentence handed down by a Palestinian court since the PNA took charge of parts of Gaza and the West Bank in 1994 under a self-rule deal with Israel. None of the death sentences has been implemented.

Spectators in court said Radwan's relatives broke into cheers of "long live justice" when the judge read the sentence.

The PNA had been under fire from human rights organisations for alleged violations. The groups said at least 14 Palestinians have died in custody since the start of self-rule.

Egypt bans import of beef from Belgium

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has banned the import of beef from Belgium after reports that 1,600 tonnes of British beef had been exported, with Belgian help, to the Netherlands, Russia and Egypt despite a ban imposed because of the mad cow disease crisis.

A Ministry of Supply and Trade statement published Friday said the ban was effective immediately in response to the European Commission announcement.

The commission said Thursday that the beef had been exported illegally. Chief spokesman Nikolaus Van Der Pas said the beef was "fraudulently declared to be of Belgian origin."

He said 700 tonnes had been seized by Dutch authorities and the remaining 900 tonnes had probably been exported to Russia and Egypt.

There were no figures for Belgian beef exports to Egypt. The Belgian embassy was closed Friday.

Al Akhbar newspaper said Supply and Trade Minister Ahmed Gueily also ordered steps intended to ensure that beef in Egyptian markets was free from disease.

Egypt has aimed in the past to prevent the incidence of so-called mad cow disease, or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

It banned imports in January of Irish cattle ready for slaughter in January. Ireland's Agriculture Ministry said in June that Egypt had agreed to resume imports.

Prince Hassan says the world should drop 'stick & carrot' politics for sake of humanity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

GENEVA — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Friday made a one-day visit here during which he attended and addressed a working group on world refugees, emphasising the need to focus on anthropopolitics which should have precedence over the politics of national interest.

"The international community should look for an alternative to the politics of the 'stick and carrot' and negative 'conditionality' should not be allowed to hamper progress in the humanitarian field," the Crown Prince told the 4th meeting of the informal advisory group of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Prince Hassan said that while he recognised that "the priorities of the world in which we live focus on

solving problems politically, as we have seen in the context of Iraq and Palestine, the political solutions are not sufficient without a humanitarian content."

He said that he hoped that discussions during the 50th anniversary of the declaration of human rights would not deteriorate into a "political discussion" over human rights standards as applied in the West, but rather look at the "totality of human issues: refugees, disappeared (persons), victims of torture... (victims) of national disasters... and develop an overarching statement of an ethical human solidarity in the General Assembly of the U.N."

For such a humanitarian order to take shape, the Crown Prince reiterated his conviction that global, regional and internal security depend on the concept of "soft security," the needs of

the man in the street, and not on "hard security" that is manifested in the accumulation of arms and means of deterrence.

He gave an example of the acquisition of arms in the Middle East since the Gulf war, accounting for \$300 billion, while the region's total need for a viable infrastructure needs stood at \$55 billion. "Security cannot be dictated by arms or the policies of fat accomplishment, but rather by a precise definition that takes into consideration that security is in the minds and hearts of people."

During Friday's meeting that was attended by seven renowned refugee rights advocates in addition to the Crown Prince, he reiterated the Jordanian position over the future of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

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Second Jordanian arrested for posting anti-Israeli signs

Mjali says Arabs are Semites, no such thing as anti-Semitism in law

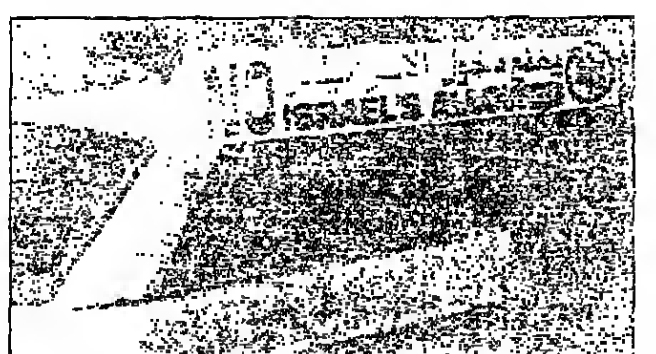
By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preventive police on Thursday arrested a 32-year-old Jordanian who hung a sticker on his shop window that banning Israelis from entering his shop, the second citizen to be arrested for the same charge in four days.

The arrest of Majed Hattar followed a war of words with police agents who came to his shop in Jabal Weibdeh and asked him to remove the sticker and accompany them to a police centre for interrogation.

Mr. Hattar refused to accompany them and demanded they produce an official arrest warrant. He also refused to remove the sticker.

More police agents arrived at the scene and asked reporters and cameramen to vacate the place. They later on arrested Mr. Hattar, removed the sticker which reads "No Israel's allowed" (meaning no



Sign posted on the window of Majed Hattar's shop, banning Israelis from entering (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

Israelis allowed) and sealed off the shop.

"If there is democracy in this country, nobody is allowed to prevent me from posting this sticker. It is my right to express my anger against the Israelis and my refusal to deal with them and to prevent them from entering my shop," Mr. Hattar told the Jordan Times one hour before he was arrested.

"We as Jordanian people reject dealing with the

mere existence of Israelis in Jordan, who stained its soil, make us reject any dealing with them. And the least thing I can do is to post this sticker in my shop," Mr. Hattar added.

"My action is not against the Jews. The Jews are scattered everywhere. But my action is targeted against the Israelis who occupy our lands, who kill our children

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Women demand amending laws to establish equality

ZARQA (J.T.) — Jordanian women stressed the need for amending a number of controversial laws, at workshops held across the nation.

The workshops were organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Al Kubba Institute for Human Development in cooperation with the General Federation for Jordanian Women (GFJW).

The four workshops held in Aqaba, Mafrqa, Irbid and Zarqa came out with a total of 42 demands in four separate agendas which were debated and voted in to forward to an upcoming national convention to be held in Amman in September.

"The demands made at the four workshops will be merged into a comprehensive women's agenda which will be discussed with women

from all parts of the country at a convention to be held in the midst of September," Salem-Pickartz told the Jordan Times.

During the four workshops, the workshop participants' most frequent demands were to amend the nationality law, divorce clauses of the personal status law, the election law, medical insurance law, to establish a constitutional court and to set a quota for women in parliament and public office.

The workshops were structured where the first two days were dedicated to giving the participants an overview of democracy, the current women's rights status and obstacles standing in the way of furthering their rights. The last day of the workshop was allocated for instruction on

practical methods and solutions in order to overcome obstacles.

"The two main ideas behind the workshop are participation and empowerment," said Josie Salem-Pickartz, explaining that the workshop was structured around women's needs and that empowerment was achieved through ensuring that the participants "take something home with them" to think and act on.

The workshop speakers were Ellen Khouri, Deputy Tounjan Faisal, '89 and '93 elections candidate Nadia Bushnaq, women's issues researcher Khadija Habashneh, Abu Ali and Jordan Times political editor Ramzi E. Khouri.

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Arabs call for U.N. General Assembly emergency session

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Arab Group on Thursday officially called for an emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Israel's refusal to halt settlement construction in the occupied territories.

Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations, Nabil Elaraby, sent a letter to U.N. General Assembly President Razali Ismail requesting the resumption of an emergency special session which was "temporarily adjourned" following adoption of a resolution on April 25 concerning Israeli settlements.

Mr. Elaraby told AFP that a date for the special session was expected to be set early next week following

consultations with Mr. Razali, who was in Geneva on Thursday. But it was likely that the session would take place on July 14 or 15.

Mr. Elaraby chairs the Arab group for the month of July, and also wrote to Mr. Razali on behalf of the Arab League states.

The letter requested the session's resumption in the light of a report to the 185-nation General Assembly by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was asked to monitor the April 25 resolution's implementation.

The resolution notably called for the immediate cessation of construction of a Jewish settlement in the Jabal Abu Ghneim sector of Arab east Jerusalem as

well as "all other settlement activities."

Mr. Annan, in his report issued last week, confirmed that the Israeli government "has not abandoned its construction of a new Israeli settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim."

He also said that settlement activity "continued unabated throughout the occupied territories."

Mr. Annan had planned to send the U.N. Undersecretary General for political affairs, Sir Kieran Prendergast, to verify Israel's compliance with the resolution.

But he was forced to call off the mission because of Israeli conditions which

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Undercover troops arrest Palestinians in surprise move

HEBRON (AP) — Like every morning this week, it began like a carefully rehearsed dance. Palestinians throwing slingshots at Israeli soldiers about a hundred yards away. The soldiers rushing even closer to taunt the troops with burning Israeli flags.

At this point, soldiers would usually fire rubber bullets.

But Thursday, the notes were instead jumped by what turned out to be Israeli undercover agents who had sneaked into their midst, some masked and throwing

stones for greater authenticity.

"I was right next to one of them. He grabbed me by my shirt, and told me in perfect Arabic to freeze," said a 17-year-old Palestinian who managed to escape.

Several stunned Palestinians were dragged away, and the army said it arrested four people. One undercover soldier, his face covered by a black hood, walked with a youth who had burned a flag in a choke hold and waved his gun to keep the crowd at bay.

The arrests signalled that Israel is using tougher meth-

ods to quell the violence. On Wednesday, a day after two Israeli soldiers were wounded by a pipe bomb, the army deployed snipers who fired live rounds for the first time in weeks.

Hebron has been the scene of riots for weeks, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Thursday accused Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of orchestrating the violence.

"These things are being done by the Palestinian National Authority," Mr. Netanyahu said. "This is a flagrant violation of the Hebron agreement."

Palestine President Yasser Arafat met with European Union (EU) envoy Miguel Moratinos Thursday night in Gaza, and according to Israel Radio Mr. Moratinos carried a message from Israel aimed at ending the violence.

After the meeting, Mr. Arafat denied orchestrating the violence and said that although Mr. Moratinos is doing his best to reconcile the two sides, Israel is to blame for "not implementing the (Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation) agreement accurately and ... honestly."

Second Jordanian arrested for posting anti-Israeli signs

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every day. Nobody can force me to love them and deal with them. They are killers, and occupiers of our lands," Mr. Hattar said inside his shop while plainclothes police agents were waiting outside.

"I call upon every one in this country to refrain from dealing with Israelis. I call upon inside and outside Jordan to fight against this and stop dealing with the Israelis," the young man said.

Mr. Hattar's brother, Nahed Hattar, told the Jordan Times on Friday that his brother was interrogated by the preventive police and was later on sent to the capital's police station, where he is still detained without charges.

Mr. Hattar said that he met on Friday with the Minister of Interior Nabeeh Rashid "who demanded an apology for what Majed has done. I refused to apologise and the meeting was over," Mr. Hattar said.

He added that when the preventive police arrived at the site, "they refused to produce their identification papers and did not possess any arrest warrant, therefore my brother refused to accompany them."

"We do not know which security agency is keeping him and for how long he will be kept there and until now no

officials have revealed the charges against my brother," Mr. Hattar said.

The arrest of Majed Hattar was the second in less than four days for the same reason.

Last Wednesday, Waddah Bargouthi was arrested and interrogated for fixing a sticker on the window of his supermarket in the Fourth Circle area. The sticker, which was removed later on by police, read "No dogs. No Jews."

The arrest of Mr. Bargouthi followed a protest submitted by the Israeli foreign minister to the Kingdom's embassy in Tel Aviv.

A Jordanian official, who was not named by the Agency France Presses, was quoted by the agency as saying that Mr. Bargouthi was released but he is to face criminal charges for violating a Jordanian law against anti-Semitism, the official said.

But the president of the Jordan Bar Association, Hussein Mjali, told the Jordan Times that there is no law in the Kingdom as such.

"We are Semites," said Mr. Mjali. "I do not think the government will resort to charge these people with such accusations. There is not an article in the law that mentions anti-Semitism," Mr. Mjali said.

Prince Hassan in Geneva

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"We in Jordan believe in the right of Palestinian refugees to return or to compensation," the Crown Prince said. Emphasising the role the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) played and still plays in providing essential services to the Palestinian refugees, Prince Hassan said: "UNRWA must receive continued support in order to fulfil its delicate mandate at these disturbing times in the region."

"UNRWA operations should continue until final settlement of the Palestinian refugee problem is reached."

On the situation of the Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries, estimated above 600,000, the Crown Prince said he saw difficulty in repatriating them unless sanctions are lifted and the U.N.-Iraq stand-off is resolved.

It is time for the international community to seriously reconsider the Iraqi situation from a humanitarian perspective," he said noting the U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, "expressed yet again his concern over the plight of the Iraqi people."

On the broader issue of world refugees, who, among the displaced, total 26 million people, 80 per cent of which from the Muslim World, the Crown Prince called on the international community to lend support to the host countries "to provide them with what can ensure the dignity of the refugees as human beings."

"The international community should address the root causes as much as it should provide assistance to the victims until a permanent solution is found for them."

In this regard, the Crown

Prince reaffirmed Jordan's call for a Zakat (alms) fund "which, other than addressing social and economic problems in Muslim countries, could be of assistance to the cause of refugees."

While emphasising the importance of the emerging concepts of globalisation and regionalism, the Crown Prince criticised bilateralism which he said still characterised relations among states.

He said that in this regard, Jordan was committed to the attainment of total peace in the region and that Jordan will continue to play its pivotal role in the peace process.

Asked whether he agreed with the thesis of the "clash of civilisations," the Crown Prince said he failed to see "how civilisations could clash."

He said he believed in one civilisation and as such that civilisation should strive to reconcile its various elements.

Those who advocate the inevitability of a clash between Islam and the West only see and hear the extremists, Prince Hassan said.

"We the centrists, however, have to be pro-active and not let the extremists to hold sway," he said.

The UNHCR commissioner general, Sadako Ogata, paid tribute to the Crown Prince as "a staunch and enlightened advocate of human rights issues." She said her approach towards settling international humanitarian issues was inspired by His Royal Highness.

The Prince also praised Mrs. Ogata and her colleagues at the UNHCR "The high commissioner and her colleagues should be commended for the energy and commitment they have brought to the process," he said.

Egyptian military court to try 98 Islamists in largest case yet

CAIRO (AFP) — A record 98 Islamists, including two women, go on trial before a military court Saturday, accused of murder and other offences as part of the fundamentalist Gamaa Islamiyah movement, judicial sources said.

It is the largest number of defendants to be tried together since the military courts began judging militants in 1992.

The two women, Jihan

Ibrahim Abdul Hamid and Sabah Abdul Rahman, are accused of acting as liaison officers between jailed militants and those outside, and also of sheltering comrades on the run.

Abdul Hamid is the wife of Abu Ela Abed Rabbo, a Gamaa leader serving a 40-year sentence for involvement in the murder in 1992 of secular writer Farag Foda and the killing of two policemen in 1994.

Abdul Rahman is the widow of another Gamaa chief, Hassan Salmeh, who was killed in a clash with police in Cairo in 1996.

All 98 have been branded by police as collaborators of Talaat Yassin Hanan, former military head of the Gamaa, who was killed in April 1994.

They are accused in relation to a number of attacks in 1994 and 1995, including the assassination in April

1994 of their main enemy, General Rauf Khairat, head of the anti-militant campaign at the Interior Ministry.

They are also alleged to have killed a policeman and to have carried out nine bomb attacks on banks and tourist offices in 1994 which caused no casualties.

Gamaa Islamiyah is the most important of the underground Islamist movements operating in Egypt.

Egypt shifts rock to make desert bloom

TOSHKHA (R) — Six months into the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's favourite development project, bulldozers have already shifted millions of tonnes of rock in a remote and uninhabited desert area, close to the Sudanese border.

His ministers and spokesmen have been lyrical about "a new civilisation" in the making, a second Nile delta where millions will live happily ever after in peace and prosperity.

They say local and Arab investors are clamouring for a slice of the action, especially for virgin land said to promise high yields of crops such as cotton and oilseeds.

The bulldozers are digging a canal from behind the Aswan High Dam into the Western Desert, draining off the waters of the Nile to irrigate 500,000 acres of empty land.

Exploiting ground water around the desert oases would add another 500,000 acres of cultivated land, the government says.

Mr. Mubarak visited the site at Toshka this week. It was his third visit this year, underlining the political commitment to make the desert bloom and create new jobs for Egyptians outside the narrow confines of the old Nile Valley.

But a veil of secrecy covers the financing of the project and some irrigation experts have doubts about its viability.

"Where is the government finding the money which it is throwing into the desert?" asked Al Wafd, the daily newspaper of the opposition Wafd Party.

Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouli and five of his ministers gave Mr. Mubarak detailed briefings on the progress of the \$1.8 billion project at Toshka on Tuesday but none of them said a word about money or budgeting.

Al Wafd said on Wednesday a circular from the ministry of planning told all ministries to cut their investment budgets to make room for the so-called South Valley Development Project.

This would hit spending on housing, sewerage and drinking water projects in the Nile Valley, where most people live, it added.

On the government side, officials say everything is going according to plan and the project will have no effect on the budget deficit, estimated at 1.2 per cent of gross national product in the financial year that started on July

1. Found Abu Hadab, adviser to Agriculture Minister Yousef Wali on the project, told Reuters at Toshka that in the first six months the contractor, the state company Beheira, Joint Stock, has exceeded its target by 30 per cent.

The company has dug the equivalent of 8.5 kilometres of a 60-kilometre canal north-west from Lake Nasser and the canal will be ready about the same time as work ends on a giant pumping station to lift the water from the lake, he added.

The government will open bids for the pumping station project on Sept. 8 and the station will take three years to build, probably starting in January 1998, officials said.

Mr. Abu Hadab had already moved about 4.5 million cubic metres and by the time the canal is 30-kilometre long they will have moved more rock than it took to build the Aswan Dam, the biggest project in modern Egyptian history.

The dam, like the Toshka Canal, was an economic gamble with heavy political overtones. The consensus now is that the dam was worth it but it did have some unfortunate side effects.

Given the patchy record of Egypt's previous attempts to

reclaim the desert, the Toshka project is more controversial.

"Pumping water into the desert is not a great idea. It's very expensive and you can use the water much better by concentrating on the Nile Valley," said geologist Rushdi Said.

"The valley is a godsend. There's no better land in the world. The best plan is to move industry and housing into the desert and make the most of the valley for farming," he added.

In the only blemish in the rosy picture painted by the ministers at Toshka, Transport and Communications Minister Suleiman Metwalli said private investors were reluctant to put their money in airports in the Toshka area.

"We offered them to investors but no one came forward. So we have built them at our own expense," he said, referring to the small airports at Dakhla and east Oweinat.

But other ministers said companies were falling over themselves to invest. A Malaysian company wants to grow and spin cotton at Oweinat, which lies more than 500 kilometres from the nearest town, and a group of Americans of Egyptian origin is seeking thousands of acres in Farafra, another remote oasis.

Women demand amending laws

(Continued from page 1)

"The role of the public does not end at the election ballot, it starts there," said Ms. Khouri pointing out that participation was the backbone of democracy within society in her lecture "Democracy in political life, pluralism, transparency, accountability and human rights."

Deputy Tounjan Faisal proposed the termination of voter registration and adoption of personal identification papers for voting purposes, a revision of electoral districts in accordance with the distribution of population and that the Senate be given a consultative role in comparison to its current legislative role, in her two lectures "Description of the present electoral system, regulations of parliamentary work, and the relationship between voters and their representatives" and "How democratic is this system, what are its shortcomings, and how can it be improved?"

Deputy Faisal also demanded that the elections be supervised by the Judicial authority instead of the Ministry of Interior.

Nadia Bushnaq described her personal experience in her lecture "How far has the existing system served women's interests?" saying that voters should only be allowed to vote in the district they reside in instead of registering where their family book is issued and that the one-man-one-vote principle had encouraged tribalism, adding that the lack of secrecy at ballots during previous elections had deprived some voters of their rights.

Khadija Habashneh said that the current electoral law was outdated and indifferent to both the status quo and democracy in its division of districts and its adoption of the one-man-one-vote principle which pressured the voter into giving their vote to "someone of immediate" priority.

Ms. Habashneh's lectures were entitled, "Facts and figures on progress and drawbacks for women since 1989" and "How to identify and support candidates that promote women's goals."

Lobbying power and effectiveness in achieving women goals were explained by Mr. Khouri during his lecture entitled "Strategies to build effective lobbies and support groups" on the final day of every workshop, as participants voted their 10 final demands out of the 24 they had proposed in the past two days.

"The lobby achieves its goals through marketing the idea to the public as if it were a commercial product. 'Flexing muscles', such as using vote-power or coercing an election candidate into backing an issue before elections is the second method to influence candidates or members in parliament or better yet, actually getting into a position of power yourself that is where you achieve directly instead of through the influencing of others," Mr. Khouri said explaining the greater success in working in unity versus individual effort.

The convention to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in September will boast a wider representation of women as well as a wider representation of political and social figures.

Arabs call for U.N. emergency session

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Mr. Annan deemed unacceptable.

Israel's decision in March to go ahead with construction at Jebel Abu Ghneim triggered international condemnation and effectively froze the peace process with the Palestinians.

In recent weeks, clashes have intensified between Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank over the settlement issue.

Palestine's observer to the United Nations, Nasser Kidwa, told a meeting of the Palestinian Rights Committee here on Tuesday that the reconvened session might consider a resolution which would "try to stop external support for illegal settlements."

Emergency special sessions are rarely held, and are called under a formula enabling the General Assembly to act when the U.N. Security Council has failed in its duties to uphold international peace and security.

Washington in March blocked two Security Council resolutions by wielding a veto on the Jebel Abu Ghneim issue and voted against a General Assembly resolution. The move infuriated Arab states and prompted the emergency special session.

A total 134 states voted in favour of the April 25 resolution, while Israel, the United States and Micronesia were opposed.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:35	French Programmes
16:00	Final Ladies Tennis
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Hangin With Mr. Cooper
20:00	Magazine Zero One
20:30	Prism
21:10	Time Trax
22:00	News in English
22:30	MacGyver
23:15	Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES	
05:56	Fajr
06:30	Sunrise/Duha
12:40	Dhuhr
16:21	Asr
19:50	Maghreb
21:24	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 652785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661656
Terra Sancta Church	Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 623521
Anglican Church	Tel. 652826

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Armenian Catholic Church	
Tel. 771531	
Armenian Orthodox Church	
Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church	
Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church	
Tel. 5816245	
Evangelical Lutheran Church	
Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical	
Congregation Tel. 845457	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.	
654952	
Church of Nazareth Tel.	
675691	
The Evangelical Local Church	
in Amman Tel. 811295	
English-speaking	
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.	
614190	

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly higher than average and winds nonwesterly moderate to active. In	
Aqaba, it will be warm and dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and sea calm.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Min/Max temp.	
Amman	21/34
Aqaba	26/40
Deserts	18/38
Jordan Valley	26/40
Yesterday's high temperature:	
Amman 33 Aqaba 40 Humidity	
readings: Amman 40 per cent.	
Aqaba 50 per cent.	

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Yousef Rashid	875792
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab	758848
Dr. Khalil Jali	747630
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847652
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	281484
Al Quds pharmacy	—
ZARQA:	
Dr. Walid Halaseh	982794
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	621111
657777	
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/7
The Islamic Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	—

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (06) 52700 or (06) 523250.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:05	Damascus (RU)
09:40	Beirut (RU)
13:00	Damascus (BA)
13:10	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00	Doha (EK)
15:05	Vienna (OS)
16:30	Dubai (EK)
16:30	Doha (Q7)
20:10	London (GA)
21:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:15	Cairo (MS)
23:25	Beirut (ME)
23:45	Amsterdam (KL)
02:15	London (BA)
03:00	Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:45	Beirut (RU)
09:40	Istanbul (RU)
11:45	Dhahran (add) (RU)

JEDCO announces annual exhibition programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Friday announced a programme detailing Jordanian participation in international exhibitions and fairs to be held abroad this year.

According to a JEDCO statement, teams are preparing for Jordan's first industrial exhibition in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi to be organised between August 11 and 15.

The decision to hold the exhibition in Nairobi followed a study of that country's markets, demonstrating that opportunities exist for marketing medical and veterinary products and fertilisers, electrical and home appliances and consumer goods in Kenya.

JEDCO has also completed preparations for participation in an August 23-27 Frankfurt exhibition to display traditional crafts and Dead Sea

minerals, according to the statement. The German Development Agency is supporting Jordan in this endeavour, it added.

Jordan will also join the 44th Damascus International Fair to be held between August 28 and September 10 in order to promote Jordanian products in Syrian markets and strengthen Jordanian-Syrian economic and trade links.

JEDCO will also participate in an international fair to be held in Bosnia from October 1 to 7 to orient Bosnians on Jordanian industrial products and establish links between Jordanian and Bosnian business communities.

Jordan will also take part in an international fair to be held in Muscat, Oman between October 27 and 31 where it will display industrial commodities as well as in an international fair in Rome between

August 23 and 27 at which time it will display agricultural products.

JEDCO is preparing for a Jordanian week to be held in the U.S. city of Detroit between October 20 and 23, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The Detroit event will offer a chance for the promotion of Jordanian industrial products as well as the marketing of tourist attractions in the United States, according to JEDCO.

It will also provide an opportunity for Jordanian entrepreneurs to meet their American counterparts and describe the current Jordanian investment climate, the statement said.

In Detroit, several Jordanian folklore troupes will perform and officials will be distributing brochures detailing Jordan's tourist attractions.

Kingdom submits list of 58 water projects to World Bank

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom last week submitted a list of 58 water sector projects to the World Bank following extensive negotiations with the bank's team in Amman, according to a report prepared by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Friday.

The report, provided to the Jordan Times, was one of several submitted by Jordan to the World Bank to improve water resources over the next 17 years, Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin affirmed.

Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times that the submission of these reports would enhance the Kingdom's quest for international financing and technical help for water projects.

The 13-page report demonstrates that Jordan has proposed JD 71 million worth of projects in the form of feasibility, design and assessment studies for water and waste water projects.

Among the major water projects, the report included JD 53 million in water rehabilitation undertakings in several cities, the construction of a Disi-Amman conveyor at a cost of JD 420 million, and future projects such as ground water reduction programme at an estimated cost of JD 250 million.

The report also included a JD 240 million project for municipal water net-

work rehabilitation in several cities: the first phase of the Amman municipal water network rehabilitation project has been calculated at JD 151 million. The above-mentioned 58 water projects, with total costs running to JD 3.447 billion, will bring the Kingdom an additional 676 mcm of water from 1997 to 2010. The financing has not yet been secured for the majority of these projects.

The largest project proposed by the ministry was the Disi-Amman conveyor, consisting of 31 kilometres of pipeline, 100 wells, reservoirs and four pumping stations to transport 120 mcm of water annually from the Disi aquifer to Amman and the southern governorates at a total cost of JD 420 million.

The municipal water network rehabilitation project involves repairing pipelines, distribution networks, home connections, reservoirs and pumping stations in towns and villages.

The project has been sub-divided into three sections covering the north, centre, and south of the country with costs expected to reach JD 240 million.

The JD 104 million project at Mujid Weir, the conveyor and southern Jordan Valley infrastructure project, aims at diverting the flood flows of Wadi Mujid via a diversion at Weir and a conveyor system for industrial and municipal uses as well as irrigation.

A further component of this project will be the installation of an irrigation infrastructure in southern Jordan Valley. The JD 40 million desalination project at Aqaba consists of the construction of a desalination plant at the Gulf of Aqaba to desalinate about 20 mcm per year of sea water for municipal, industrial and tourist uses.

These "peace projects" will enable the Kingdom to obtain an additional 206 mcm of water.

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Higher committee to discuss gas supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, convening in Cairo today under the co-chairmanship of both countries' prime ministers, is expected to discuss Egyptian gas supplies to the Kingdom, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Hosni.

The local press Friday quoted the minister as stating that a joint technical team has finalised a project study entailing the construction of a 270-kilometre pipeline from Suez in Egypt to Aqaba in Jordan.

This pipeline will initially transport 200 million cubic feet of natural gas daily from the year 2001, to be gradually increased to a quotidian amount of 400 million cubic feet.

According to Mr. Hosni, the higher committee discussed the project last year and tentative agreement was reached on its implementation.

Jordan requires approximately 500,000 tonnes of gas annually, currently imported from Iraq, he added.

The gas imported from Egypt will be used to produce electricity in Aqaba for growing industries and will help transform the port city into a free zone.

During the Cairo meetings, the higher committee will examine a final draft of the gas agreement and sign documents to commence linkage of electric networks between Egypt and Jordan, according to the minister.

This project has been financed by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development as part of a power linkage project, also including Syria, Iraq and Turkey, he concluded.

Man threatens family with M-16 rifle

By Rana Husselini
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 37-year old man, who Wednesday barricaded his family for seven hours with an M-16 rifle and then threatened to kill himself, will be transferred to court today, police said Friday.

The suspect, who was not identified by authorities, threatened his family with the rifle at approximately 2:00 a.m., following an argument with his brother.

"The man, under the influence of alcohol, sprayed the house walls with gunfire," a police official told the Jordan Times Friday. "He then threatened to kill himself, if anyone approached him."

A special police force cordoned off the man's house near the fourth circle, while sharpshooters wearing bullet-proof vests surrounded the area in preparation for any possible retaliation.

According to the police official, the man gave up his unlicensed rifle and two bullet magazines at around 9:00 a.m. after intensive negotiations with a special police force.

"Our agents convinced him to surrender his firearm," the police official maintained.

The official said that the man is being questioned as to where he obtained an M-16 rifle.

Possession of firearms such as M-16 automatic weapons is illegal in Jordan, he added.

According to the police official, the suspect has undergone police questioning and will be transferred to the criminal prosecutor for further queries.

Jordanian-American medical conference to convene in Amman this month

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-American medical conference is scheduled to convene here on July 26 and attract over 400 American physicians and specialists, according to head of the preparatory executive committee, Dr. Nayef Abdullah Suleiman.

Dr. Suleiman Friday explained that the conference, organised by the American College of Doctors in conjunction with the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), will be attended by hundreds of Jordanian doctors.

The participants are to review 110 reports in 10 days, covering a wide range of medical topics from diabetes to heart disease, Dr. Suleiman explained.

He also noted that participants will hold a seminar focusing on maternal health, another on continuing medical education as well as

opportunities for Jordanian doctors, specialising in U.S. medical centres and institutions.

According to Dr. Suleiman, the upcoming event presents a real opportunity for Jordanian physicians and specialists to benefit from modern medical techniques through those lectures and research papers presented by their American colleagues.

While American participants in the conference will pay a participatory fee of \$600, Jordanian specialists will pay only JD 30 and general practitioners JD 10, Dr. Suleiman confirmed.

A concurrent medical exhibition will be displayed at the Radisson SAS Hotel where conference deliberations will also be convening, he concluded.

European official begins visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Member of European Parliament (EP) Magda Aelvoet arrives here today on a five-day working visit to review aspects of European Union-Jordan cooperation, a European Community statement said.

In her capacity as rapporteur of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy at European Parliament, Ms. Aelvoet will meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Fayez Tarawneh and Minister of Planning Dr. Rima Khalaf.

Her programme also includes meetings with the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Contractors' Union, the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Jordanian Women's Federation.

Ms. Aelvoet will be accompanied by a member of the EP Secretariat and an official from the Green Group Party, of which she is president, the statement concluded.

Majali affirms confidence in U.S. peace process role

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday stated his belief that the United States would develop an initiative to end the present deadlock in peace negotiations.

Upon his return to Amman from a visit to Bahrain, the prime minister affirmed that the United States is a self-avowed partner in the peace process and that it is determined to stimulate momentum therein.

Peace is an international strategic option and not a mere regional issue, Dr. Majali asserted.

Jordan is also confident that the Europeans will conceive of their own initiatives to salvage the peace process and that Arab countries, led by Egypt, will also contribute to the eventual success of the peace process, he said.

Talks in Bahrain covered Jordanian-Bahraini relations, pan-Arab affairs and the peace process, according to Dr. Majali.

Bilateral talks focused on economic and trade ties, the prospect of establishing a Jordanian-Bahraini bank to increase trade exchanges and the prospect of establishing direct land, sea and air routes between the two nations, he explained.

The prime minister confirmed that he also discussed the prospect of a Bahraini company directing oil and gas prospecting in Jordan.

Talks with Bahraini leaders also focused on the cessation of differences among Arab nations, he added.

In reference to a recent incident of Jewish settlers placing posters in Hebron insulting the Prophet Mohammad, the prime minister expressed condemnation and charged that such divisive actions reflect acts of "desperate and defeatist elements."

While in Bahrain, Dr. Majali informed a press conference that current Israeli policies in the Middle East peace

process are unacceptable to Jordan and must be changed.

The prime minister criticised the vision of the Israeli leadership, based, he said, on the establishment of peace without returning land. These policies contravene global public opinion, he stated.

The Middle East and North African Economic Summit (MENA), due to be held in the Qatari capital of Doha, falls within the context of multilateral peace talks in which Jordan has played an active role, Dr. Majali said.

Through its participation in bilateral and multilateral talks, Jordan has been able to restore all of its rights as stipulated in the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, according to the premier.

Regarding the U.S. allocation of \$100 million in aid to Jordan, Dr. Majali stated that the Kingdom did not request that the United States decrease any financial

allocations to any country, whether Israel or Egypt. He emphasised Jordan's eagerness to ensure maximum support for Egypt.

The aid allocation was endorsed by the U.S. Congress as the U.S. administration felt that it did not give Jordan sufficient economic support for its role in the Middle East peace process, according to the premier.

In terms of press freedoms, the prime minister stated that there are no ceilings thereto.

"The sky and radio waves are the [only] press ceilings," he said. However, he stated that these freedoms should not inflict harm on individuals.

The analysis and critiques of policies of the Jordanian government or any other is permitted," Dr. Majali concluded, adding that new amendments to the Press and Publications Law do not forbid such.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Photography exhibition by Jan Kasty, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 25.

Exhibition of Korean products at the Amman International Motor Show, until July 7.

Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

Silver Jewellery exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists, at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 24.

Palestinians march in Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

maintain order as the needs arise," he said. Israel warned Thursday it would take tougher action after three weeks of bloody clashes in which 220 Palestinian protesters have been wounded.

Soldiers from an elite Israeli army unit disguised themselves as demonstrators Thursday and pounced on at least four young Palestinians, beating and arresting them, witnesses said.

The army also threatened to seal off the town, preventing Palestinians from getting to their jobs inside Israel and limiting the movement of goods. Despite the threats, the

Palestinian police chief in Hebron, General Tariq Zeid, said his force would not intervene to restore calm. "There is no reason why Palestinian police should suppress street protests," General Zeid told Israel army radio.

Tensions in Hebron, already high due to the three-month freeze in the peace process, were ratcheted up at the weekend when a Jewish woman plastered Arab shops with anti-Islam posters. The violence was in danger of spilling over to the town of Nablus, also on the West Bank, where Islamic organisations organised a march to the Jewish religious site of Joseph's Tomb to protest

"insults against the prophet."

The Israeli army banned Jews Friday from visiting the tomb, the site of pitched battles between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police last September in which a dozen people died. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai acknowledged at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem Friday that the posters "are the cause for the upsurge in tension in Hebron, when the situation was growing noticeably calmer beforehand."

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu renewed accusations that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was stirring up the violence to put pressure on Israel at the negotiating table. He said President Arafat "has not done anything to prevent

the Hebron violence and has encouraged it in the Gaza Strip."

"Israel is not ready to accept street violence running in parallel with political negotiations, and we have sent very strong messages on this subject to the Palestinian authority," he said.

Mr. Arafat denied that his self-rule authority was to blame for three weeks of clashes between protesters and Israeli troops in the divided West Bank city of Hebron.

"These accusations are false ... it is the Israelis who do not respect signed agreements," Mr. Arafat told reporters late Thursday after talks with the EU envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry official reports on Cairo visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary General Sattam Ma'ayah Friday returned home from Cairo after participating in meetings of a Jordanian-Egyptian committee, preparing for the Joint Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee which is to meet in Cairo today. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ma'ayah affirmed that the two sides signed a draft agreement covering the exchange of postal transfers between the two countries, under which the transfer amount will be raised from JD 10 to \$100.

Students claim art prizes

NEW DELHI (Petra) — Four Jordanian students from the National Orthodox School in Amman have won international awards for their entries in an international drawing competition, organised by the New Delhi-based Shenkar International Corporation for Children's Artwork. The winners are Alia Bisharat, Dima Bairakdar, Rita Nabil Ammari and Noor Ahmad Shahbender. Shenkar Corporation has already delivered the awards to the Jordanian embassy here for delivery to the winners.

IPA to hold training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will today hold two training programmes on bigger and basic management for senior and medium-level civil servants. Over a period of two weeks, trainees in the Higher Management Programme will receive instruction on such topics as relations between the three executive authorities, civil service regulation, computer skills, strategic decisions, communication and analysis, crisis and stress management, strategic management and management excellence. Trainees in the second programme will learn about administrative concepts, accounting, work ethics, general policies, facilitation of procedures, government accounting and audit and preparation of memorandums and reports.

Department collects JD 31,857,679

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Surveys Department has collected JD 31,857,679 in fees from land registration and parcelation transactions during the first six months of this year, according to department sources. The sources tallied total revenues for June alone at JD 7,738,564.

China starts to disband Hong Kong handover institutions

HONG KONG (R) — Beijing has begun to dismantle the institutions that it set up to steer Hong Kong into Chinese rule.

Analysts said the moves indicated the Chinese Communist government was moving quickly to give the new Hong Kong administration a free hand to run the ex-British colony, which reverted to China Tuesday, as a quasi-autonomous region.

China's parliament Thursday approved a decision to disband a 150-member Preparatory Committee, charged with setting up the territory's post-colonial political structure.

The Preparatory Committee, comprising Chinese Communist officials and Hong Kong notables, chose a 400-member caucus that picked Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-hwa and a controversial provisional legislature last December.

The interim legislature set up by the Selection Committee replaced the Legislative Council, elected under British rule in 1995, on July 1.

The Preparatory Committee, tightly controlled by Beijing, has been a controversial force in Hong Kong political life, laying down rules for many aspects of the sovereignty change.

Thursday night's announcement did not make clear when the decision to disband the body would take effect.

At the same time, China signalled it was downgrading the role of its Xinhua News Agency branch, Bei-

Landslides from torrential rains still threaten H. Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Landslides caused by torrential rains plagued Hong Kong Friday as schools closed for a second day due to appalling weather since its return to Chinese rule.

More than 130 landslides were reported throughout Hong Kong since the daily deluge began Monday, the last day of British rule in the territory, blocking highways and causing long traffic jams and queues for ferries, government officials said.

They also warned more landslides are possible from the almost non-stop downpours.

No casualties were reported Friday, but rescue work resumed to find a missing elderly woman believed to be buried in a landslide.

A small excavator was airlifted by helicopter to the site where a stone hut stood on the hillside of Sha Tin. The landslide also knocked down the wall of a temple there.

Some 50 people were called in to search for the 70-year-old woman who had been reported missing by relatives since Wednesday.

The search and rescue work was earlier temporarily suspended due to fears of further landslides.

Andrew Malone of the Geotechnical Engineering Office told reporters that the damage from the latest landslides was "light."

"If it hit a major populated area, it could have been worse," he said.

China's official Hong Kong mission and watchdog, Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of Xinhua here, said his task as China's official spokesman in Hong Kong had been completed following the handover.

The Xinhua mission has in some ways acted as a shadow government and critic of the colonial administration, with Xinhua deputy directors tracking specific policy areas.

Mr. Zhang said Xinhua would not designate a new spokesman in Hong Kong affairs.

The independent Chinese-language daily Ming Pao

ment in Beijing.

Earlier this week Beijing also announced it was disbanding an advisory body made up of 186 Hong Kong personalities, mostly left-wing politicians, pro-China businessmen and grassroots activists, who had advised China on the transition since 1992.

"The move is to centralise the power of policy-making to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government," political analyst Sonny Lo told Reuters.

"If there are too many institutions, they may compete with Mr. Tung's government for influence," he said.

The 400-strong Selection Committee, exclusively comprising Hong Kong personalities noted for their pro-China patriotism, will now be the only handover institution that remains intact.

That body will fill any seats vacated in the provisional legislature, which is likely to sit for one year until elections are held.

China this week created a post-handover committee to oversee the implementation of Hong Kong's new constitution, the Basic Law, which allows the territory a high degree of autonomy in everything except defence and diplomacy, for the next 50 years.

The 12-member Basic Law Committee — six from Hong Kong and six from the mainland — took in leading provisional legislator Maria Tam, who must now be replaced by the Selection Committee.

said the move indicated changes to the role of Xinhua in Hong Kong and would help the smooth operation of Mr. Tung's government.

However, Xinhua's role would possibly be taken over by a new office of China's Foreign Ministry, inaugurated here Tuesday immediately after the handover.

The Foreign Ministry office will handle the territory's external affairs — one of the few areas in which Hong Kong will not enjoy self-rule — and serve as a channel of communication with the central govern-

ment in Beijing.

Russian border guards kill two on Afghan border

DUSHANBE (R) — Russian Border Guards killed two people trying to cross into Tajikistan from nearby Afghanistan late Thursday, a Russian military official said Friday.

"Two armed persons were liquidated by fire from a Russian Border Guards helicopter," the officer told Reuters in the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

The two were killed as they tried to cross the border Pyandzh River, around 200 kilometres south of Dushanbe, he said.

Some 20,000 Russian troops are stationed in Tajikistan, viewing themselves as a shield against the possible advent of militant, Taliban-type Islam from neighbouring Afghanistan. Last Friday, Tajikistan's secular government and the United Islamic Opposition signed a final peace agreement in Moscow, putting an end to a bitter four-year civil war.

But the peace in the Central Asian state is often disturbed by maverick armed bands and drug traders operating out of their bases in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Taliban Islamic militia clashed with opposition forces in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz for the second day Thursday, causing heavy civilian casualties, an aid worker said.

"Since yesterday, intense fighting continued around Kunduz City and the civilian casualty figure has gone up as the city itself has been the target of heavy shelling," the aid worker told Reuters from the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Kunduz City, the provincial capital 340 kilometres north of Kabul, fell to the Taliban last month when a local opposition commander revolted against forces loyal to ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Efforts for negotiations between the defuncting commander and former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood over the Taliban presence in Kunduz had failed, the aid worker said.

Mr. Masood wanted an evacuation of the Taliban's nearly 2,000 fighters in Kunduz but no serious fighting emerged until Wednesday, said the aid worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Taliban entered the neighbouring province of Takhar Tuesday and said they had captured the provincial capital Taloqan, which has served as Mr. Rabbani's headquarters

after the Taliban ousted him from Kabul last September.

But a Masood spokesman denied the claim.

The aid worker said Mr. Masood's forces had overall control of the province.

He said the Taliban forces were also involved in heavy fighting with Mr. Masood's forces in Khanabad district in southeastern Kunduz where their supply line was considered fragile.

Several civilians were wounded in air raids by anti-Taliban forces in the centre of Kunduz City Wednesday, he said.

The Taliban have vowed to impose strict Islamic rule across Afghanistan, a goal which their ethnic minority opponents in the north see as concealing a drive for Pashtun hegemony.

The Taliban now control more than two thirds of the country.

A Pakistani peace emissary said Thursday the Afghan opposition alliance appears agreeable to the Taliban militia's ceasefire demands but the two sides remain at odds over achieving peace.

A senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official, Ifkhar Murshed, told reporters after talks with the warring sides that Islamabad would continue efforts towards peace talks.

He said he met the opposition representatives in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif Tuesday and had the impression that "they are agreeable to a ceasefire."

"They said 'if the other side stops fighting, we will also stop fighting,'" Mr. Murshed said.

He said a ceasefire and exchange of prisoners were preconditions set by the Taliban in a meeting with him on June 21 to meet opposition demands for a political commission to consider establishing a broad-based Afghan government.

But the opposition alliance seemed reluctant to release captured Taliban fighters, fearing they would return to warfare, Mr. Murshed said.

However, the opposition agreed to consider a Pakistani suggestion to release, as a goodwill gesture, former Taliban Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and Central Bank chief Mullah Ahsanullah, Murshed added.

The two were arrested in Mazar-i-Sharif by opposition leader General Abdul Malik's forces in late May.

Tensions are rife in wake of Albanian elections

TIRANA (AFP) — Albania's elections appear to have caused more problems than they have solved, sparking disputes over the results and fights between winners and losers.

Held last Sunday, first round results have still not been released. Election officials say counting is complete but arguments and negotiations continue over how many seats will go to a second round.

However, everyone accepts that the Socialists emerged the strongest party while the former ruling Democrats have come a poor second.

This has led to considerable tension between the two rivals since unofficial tallies began to trickle in.

Realising they are going to have to relinquish control after five years in power the Democrats are fighting every inch of the way.

Not only has this produced

who are helping the Albanians with the elections.

"It's pathetic. What we have here is basic political immaturity. The Albanians have not yet understood if you lose, you lose, but you survive to fight another day," one Western official said angrily.

Further muddying the waters is the result of a referendum held on the restoration of the monarchy alongside Sunday's elections.

Albania's self-proclaimed King Leka I has claimed that voters opted to reinstate the monarchy but that a plot by the Socialists has robbed him of the necessary 50 per cent plus result needed to change the country's constitution.

On Thursday, in a clearly premeditated action, King Leka led a group of armed and angry supporters to the building where officials were counting votes for the election and the referendum.

Heavy gunfire broke out for no apparent reason but the incident reportedly left one dead and several injured.

The incident has only served to heighten tensions in Tirana where Albania's powerful President Sali Berisha continues to wield influence over parts of the police and various armed gangs linked to his Democratic Party.

Some suggest that Thursday's event involving King Leka is part of Mr. Berisha's game plan to maintain the instability and chaos that has plagued the Balkan republic for much of this year.

Violent anti-government protests split over into armed rebellion in March. Military barracks were plundered and an estimated one million weapons have found their way into the hands of criminal gangs and ordinary people.

The agency monitoring and supervising Albania's election, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), only concerned itself with the election. It did not monitor the referendum.

"We advised the Albanians not to hold the referendum at

the same time as the elections because of the confusions it would cause," said one OSCE official.

"If they choose to ignore our advice, that's not our problem. It's theirs. After all, it's their country," the official who requested anonymity said.

King Leka returned suddenly to Albania in April after spending most of his life in exile. He has many supporters in the north of Albania, as does Mr. Berisha, but few in the south.

Thursday's incident does not bode well for the immediate future stability of Albania.

Elections called in March by a weakened Berisha under pressure from the international community were intended to usher in a period of calm.

Instead they appear to have exacerbated divisions and opened up new ones with King Leka becoming a dangerous focal point for dissent despite appeal from senior Albanian officials for calm.



Jimmy and Gloria Stewart are shown in an undated photo. Stewart, who died Wednesday at his home from cardiac arrest, won one Academy Award and was nominated for four more during his career which spanned more than 80 movies. Gloria Stewart died in 1994 (Reuter photo)

Hollywood mourns loss of Jimmy Stewart

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood was mourning one of its greatest stars Thursday — Jimmy Stewart, who portrayed a decent American "everyman" in many of his nearly 80 films.

Stewart died of a heart attack Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills at the age of 89. He had been a virtual recluse since his wife, Gloria, died in 1994.

"I think Jimmy was ready to go," said actor Charlton Heston, who beat out Stewart for the best actor Academy Award in 1959.

Heston, who appeared with Stewart in *The Greatest Show On Earth*, said he felt "sad for myself and for the rest of the film community — indeed the whole film-going audience around the world."

The current president and an ex-president of the United States paid tribute to the gangly, slow-speaking star who was a real-life war hero off the screen and a reluctant hero on it.

President Clinton called Stewart "a national treasure" for his roles in such classics as *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *It's A Wonderful Life*.

"Jimmy Stewart was a great actor, a gentleman, and a patriot," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "We will always remember his rich career of great performances that spanned several decades and entertained generations of Americans."

Ex-President Ronald Reagan, a former actor who presented Stewart with a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985, mourned the loss of a "close, close friend."

"We shared so many of life's precious moments with him and with Gloria," Mr. Reagan said in a statement. "We'll miss him terribly, but we know they're happy to be together once again."

Stewart, who supported conservative causes, campaigned for Mr. Reagan in 1976 in his unsuccessful presidential campaign. The actor was also a "hawk" during the Vietnam War in which he lost his stepson, Ronald.

He was a decorated pilot in World War II, flying several bombing missions over Germany. One of his memorable performances was as band-leader Glenn Miller, who disappeared on a wartime flight across the English Channel.

Bob Hope, who entertained American troops in the war, called Stewart "every man's hero and every woman's dream man. He wasn't just a talent, but a genius and a friend."

"America has lost its role model. Jimmy represented the best in all of us in the characters he played. I love Jimmy for his humour and warmth and for his commitment to our country," said Hope.

Frank Sinatra called him "uniquely talented and a good friend."

Kim Novak, who played opposite Stewart in *Vertigo* and *Bell, Book And Candle*, said her feelings were "bittersweet."

"Bitter because there will never be another Jimmy Stewart. The sweet part is that he is free now. He had been ready for a long time to leave his body behind and move on."

Another co-star, Doris Day, from *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, said Stewart "did have a wonderful life. He was not only the consummate actor for me, but his great simplicity is what I think attracted everyone to him."

He is survived by his stepson, Michael McLean, and twin daughters Judy and Kelly, who asked that instead of flowers, donations be made to a Santa Monica hospital and an African wildlife fund.

Paris, Bonn seek to reassure on ties

BONN (R) — The French and German foreign ministers have insisted that the Bonn-Paris axis at the heart of European integration was in full working order, offering a broad mix of metaphors to back up their case.

Klaus Kinkel and his new counterpart Hubert Vedrine compared Franco-German ties to a bicycle trip, a marriage and — the old favourite — a motor, while sticking carefully to their standard lines on Europe's planned single currency.

They also presented a declaration on strengthening foreign policy cooperation including measures such as undertaking joint visits abroad, more intensive exchanges of information and more extensive use of electronic mail and video conferencing.

Mr. Vedrine, after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl, joined Mr. Kinkel for a cycling tour along the Rhine.

The ministers did not ride on a tandem but were at pains to stress that France and Germany were still working as a team, despite a widespread view that Bonn and Paris do not see eye to eye on issues like the single currency and employment policy.

"I think we have given

you a good image. We cycled together in the same direction," said Mr. Vedrine, making his first visit to Bonn as a member of France's new Socialist-led government.

"Allow me to confirm and to emphasise that the Franco-German motor is not sputtering, far less there is a crisis in Franco-German relations," Mr. Kinkel later told a news conference.

"It's like a good marriage," he said. "In some matters, there are sometimes different views but the main thing is that the basic relationship continues on undisturbed."

The German minister said both countries wanted to meet the timetable for European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the convergence criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Vedrine said France was committed to making monetary union a reality, and to respecting the timetable.

Earlier Thursday, French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in Paris that France's public deficit could be "significantly higher" than 3.0 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The treaty sets

down a ceiling of three per cent.

Mr. Kohl, the driving force behind the euro, has reiterated in the past few days that "three" per cent means 3.0 precisely.

Mr. Vedrine noted that the deficit criterion was just one of five criteria countries must meet to qualify for EMU and also pointed out that France's deficit had been consistently declining over the past few years.

The ministers also discussed next week's Madrid summit on NATO's eastward expansion. France favours taking in Slovenia and Romania along with three countries considered certain to be invited to join — Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Mr. Kinkel said no decision would be taken before Madrid. Germany has said it can live with five new members or with just the three — the option advocated by Washington.

The ministers took a Rhine cruise after their cycle tour but were forced to hang around on the riverbank, waiting for their delayed boat to arrive. No one dared offer any metaphor about not sticking to the EMU timetable.

Kohl hails excellent state of Moscow-Bonn relations

BERLIN (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Friday welcomed new friendship and close cooperation between Bonn and Moscow, at a conference discussing Russia's fledgling democracy.

"The German-Russian relationship is better than ever before in history," said Mr. Kohl, addressing the meeting which was attended by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"Germany and Russia see each other as partners who have drawn necessary conclusions from a bitter history."

Mr. Kohl noted that Germany had by far given the largest financial support to Russia by helping reschedule its debt and giving loans and grants.

Trade volume surged over the last years to 27 billion marks (\$15 billion), he said.

Mr. Kohl said security issues remained key between the two former cold war foes. But progress had been made as Russian, American and German soldiers were now involved in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, along with their allies and partners.

"Who could have predicted these developments only 10 years ago?" said Mr. Kohl.

European security issues involving NATO and the OSCE had also dominated talks between Mr. Chernomyrdin and German President Roman Herzog late Thursday when the two leaders underlined the necessity for Russia and the west to intensify dialogue concerning the alliance's expansion into Eastern Europe.

Mr. Chernomyrdin went straight into the talks at Mr.

Herzog's Berlin residence after arriving in the city earlier Thursday on the start of a two-day visit.

The Russian premier and the German president also pointed to the joint efforts of Russian and Western peacekeeping forces in Bosnia as an example of good cooperation between East and West.

The two-day conference "Russia — What To Do," reminiscent of Lenin's question raised at the time of the Russian Revolution, examines Russia's democracy, economy and position in European institutions.

A total of 160 political, economic and cultural representatives from the two countries were expected to attend the conference, including the heads of the German industrial group Siemens and the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom.

EU leans towards talks with some applicants only

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Union (EU) should only open membership talks next year with Eastern European countries judged ready to join in the short-term, European Commission President Jacques Santer said Thursday.

His stand seemed to rule out the other option on the table — to open negotiations with all 10 Eastern European candidates and Cyprus in early 1998, but to conclude on different dates.

The commission — the EU executive — is set to unveil on July 16 individual assessments on each of the 10 eastern applicants, focusing on economic and political cri-

teria determined by EU leaders.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria are all in the queue for EU membership, along with Cyprus which has already been judged suitable for membership.

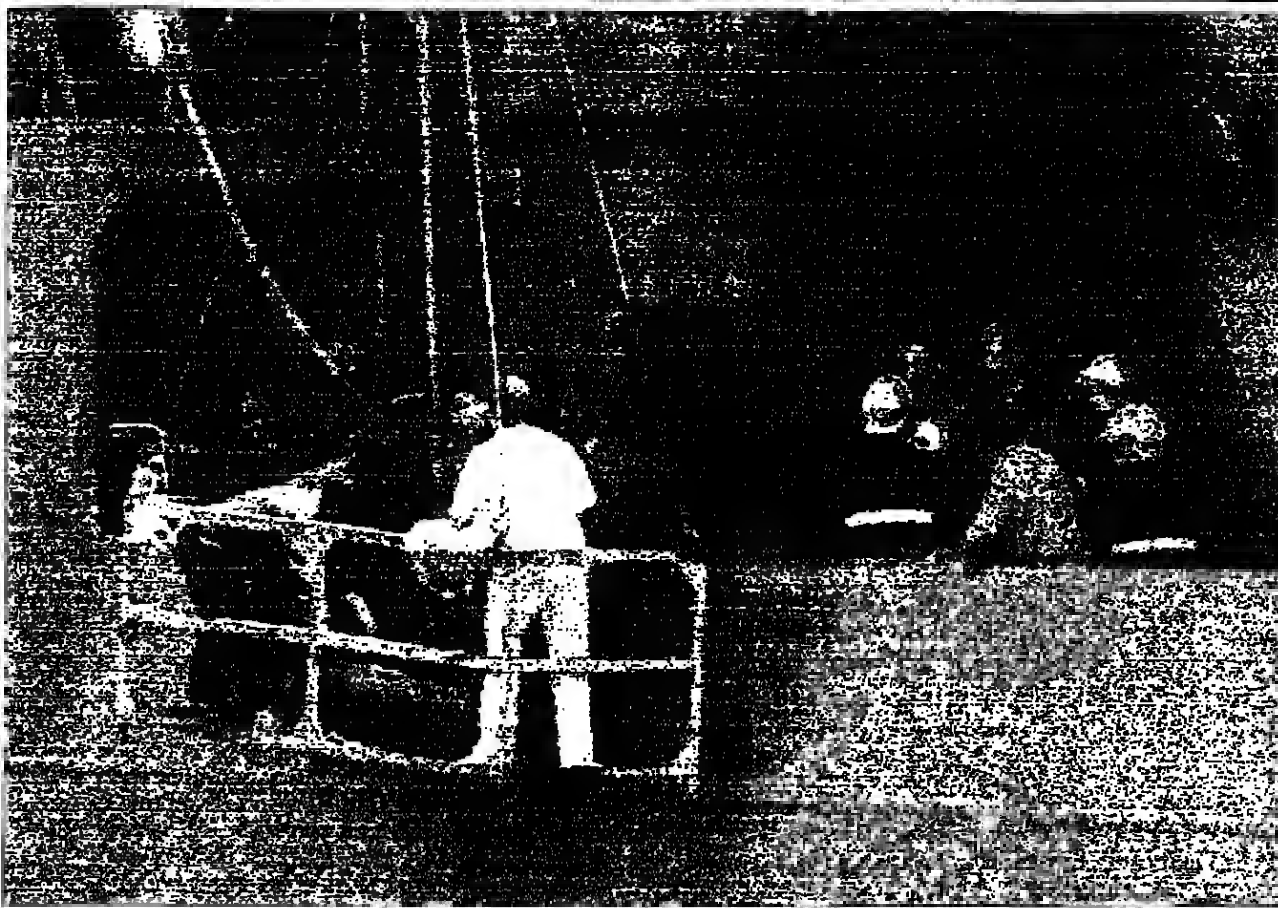
"This examination will lead us inevitably to a differentiation between the different countries," Mr. Santer said after the commission met the government of Luxembourg, which took over the EU presidency on July 1.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who will host the EU summit meeting in December which

will decide who to invite to talks, also seemed to want to limit the number of countries which will take part in the EU's next enlargement wave.

"We have to start negotiations with those who are ready," he said. "I do not rule out proceeding to an opening ceremony with all, but the breakaway (between the ready and not ready) should take place on the same day," he said.

The modest result of the EU's June 16-17 summit, where EU leaders failed to agree on the institutional changes necessary for a bloc with up to a dozen new members, makes it practically difficult to take in all candidates.



Rescue workers carry the body of a worker on a crane after a fiery explosion swept through a ship under construction in a Valencia shipyard Thursday. Nineteen people were reported killed in the explosion (Reuters photo)

Spain shipyard fire traps workers, kills 18

VALENCIA (R) — Eighteen people were killed and 10 were injured Thursday when an explosion and fire swept through a cargo ship under construction in a Valencia shipyard, trapping workers inside, police said.

Audiotapes said they believed a fuel leak in the engine room of the ship, named *Proof Spirit* and designed to carry chemicals, triggered the explosion, setting off a blaze that engulfed the lower decks.

Some workers, their faces blackened by the acrid smoke, fled in panic, escaping injury. But others were trapped inside the engine room and other sections of the ship, which was being

built in the Mediterranean port of Valencia.

Local media reported that when firemen entered the engine room, they found bodies piled on top of each other.

"I came up after I saw something breaking off the boat and all I could see was a cloud of smoke and a lot of fire and so we all ran out of the ship," one uninjured worker told reporters.

Survivors, their faces streaming with tears, stood helplessly as fire-fighters battled the blaze and searched for bodies.

Family members hugged each other and cried as waited for news about their loved ones. One woman, overcome

by grief, passed out as bodies were lifted by cranes to the dockside.

The Valencia government declared a period of mourning and promised a full investigation.

Although the fire was small, the rescue operation was complicated by the fact that the fire was in the lower half of the ship's hold.

Two firemen were injured trying to control the blaze. At least 10 workers were hurt, most suffering only slight injuries.

"There was a lot of confusion earlier, but now we can officially say that 18 were killed and some 10 were injured," a police spokesman said.

A spokesman for the shipbuilders said many of the victims died as a result of suffocation and smoke inhalation.

One former worker in the shipyard said he was not surprised by the disaster.

"I once worked there and I know how things were and it doesn't surprise me that something like this happened," he told state television.

The ship was being built for Norwegian company Jo Tankers. It was 110 metres long and 16 metres wide.

A port official said all 18 killed had been identified and came from four shipbuilding companies: Union Naval Levante, Inelca, Alfadavar and Inerbank.

Yeltsin makes Karabakh conflict big priority

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said he had agreed with Paris and Washington to step up peacemaking efforts to end a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"I have agreed with the U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac that we will get together finally to find a way to make the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia sit at the negotiating table and sign an agreement or a treaty," Interfax News Agency quoted

him as saying after talks with Azeri President Heydar Aliyev in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin did not say when and where the talks would be held.

Last month, the three presidents, who met in the U.S. city of Denver at a summit of world leaders, urged the two sides to negotiate a settlement, proposing that Armenia recognize the enclave as part of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Yeltsin also said Russia would pay as much attention to Nagorno-Karabakh as it did to the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation (NATO).

"Every day, the head of the Foreign Ministry will start with this problem (Karabakh)," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Tens of thousands died in a war between Armenians and Azeris in the late 1980s over Karabakh, which was mainly populated by Armenians despite being inside Azerbaijan.

Separatist Armenian forces still hold 20 per cent of Azeri territory. Shooting often breaks out on the borders despite a three-year-long truce.

Mr. Aliyev said his side

was happy to solve the conflict as soon as possible, but he wanted the negotiations to be based on the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

But he said Azerbaijan could grant Karabakh a high degree of autonomy and guarantee the security of its people.

Armenian officials have said they want an extremely high level of autonomy in exchange for recognising the disputed territory as part of Azerbaijan.

Yeltsin: Russian economy has turned the corner

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin told the Russian people Friday the past year had been the hardest of his life but the economy had finally turned the corner after years of industrial decline.

"The breakthrough has already happened," Mr. Yeltsin declared in a radio address marking the first anniversary of his reelection for a second and final presidential term.

"That is it. We have reached the point when it is possible for production to go up. The decline has been stopped."

The 66-year-old president, speaking clearly and fluently in a wide-ranging speech, did not say when or by how much the economy would grow and made clear the Russian people would

not feel the benefit immediately.

"In 1995 and 1996 we could not even dream of this," he said. "In individual regions there is already a small growth. True, it is still small. People will be able to feel the growth when it starts in the majority of regions."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin also sounded confident Wednesday when he said Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the broadest measure of economic health, had grown one per cent in the first six months of this year.

That, he said, was the first rise in GDP, the value of goods and services produced, since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Many financial analysts share this confidence about

the economy, although they have expressed doubt that GDP is already rising. Few say they expect the stock market to jump simply because of a rise in GDP.

Mr. Yeltsin, first elected in 1991, has been quietly celebrating the anniversary of his election victory over a Communist challenger last July which won him a four-year new term.

He spent most of the first eight months of his new term out of the Kremlin because of health problems, but has reaffirmed his grip on power since undergoing heart surgery last November.

"This year, I think, was the most difficult of my life, but it was also a special, unique one. I could never have imagined that a man of my age could change so

much. But that is how it turned out," he said. "I can feel how I have changed."

Mr. Yeltsin, partly at the behest of his daughter and image-maker Tatyana Dyachenko, has used his regular radio addresses to explain the major political changes of the last few months.

He said he had reshuffled the government in the spring to promote liberal reformers partly because his ill health made him realise how little time his presidency gave him to act.

"I was precisely then that I felt with particular acuteness how quickly time goes by, how much I still need to do," Mr. Yeltsin said. "That is why I called new people into the government — young, sensible, dynamic people."

Poland to move on new fighters soon, but carefully

WARSAW (R) — Poland aims to launch a competition among foreign firms within months to supply it with new fighter aircraft, but it must avoid over-straining its economy, Defence Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski said.

Poland, which expects to be invited at next week's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Madrid to start talks on joining the Western pact, has an ageing air fleet and Defence Ministry officials say it needs 100 modern multi-purpose fighters.

"The aircraft are essential for the Polish armed forces in four or five years but to acquire them then, we must make a decision or at least prepare a competition in a

few months — preferably this year," Mr. Dobrzanski told a news conference.

He said a decision to invite bids could be made once the government finishes a 15-year plan for modernisation of the armed forces, now near completion, although he was unclear whether it could happen before Sept. 21 general elections.

But Mr. Dobrzanski said that Poland was admired by NATO members largely because of its economic success and could not allow this to be harmed by ill-judged or excessive arms purchases.

"We must do this calmly and deliberately. We must always remember that we cannot harm a well evolving economy... through purchas-

es for the Polish armed forces that are ill-judged, excessive or concentrated in one period," he said.

A Saab/British Aerospace PLC consortium is offering its Jas 39 Gripen while U.S. giants Lockheed Martin Corp. and McDonnell Douglas Corp., with the F16/C and F18 Hornet, and France's Dassault Aviation, with the Mirage 2000-5, are in the race.

A future acquisition may be coordinated with Hungary and the Czech Republic, the other two former Soviet bloc states due to get NATO invitations at Madrid, and Poland is holding out for the best deal for its own industry through offsets and contracts for its factories.

For the three candidates to join NATO by 1999 as planned, their entry must be ratified by legislators of all existing member states, especially by two-thirds of the U.S. senators.

Some firms have suggested ratification could be easier if Poland buys Western arms, but Mr. Dobrzanski said NATO politicians had told him purchases were not a condition for entry — especially as Western countries were competing with each other.

"Serious NATO politicians warn us: 'Don't believe all that businessmen say, as they are trying to squeeze the most possible out of Poland's economy,'" he added.

Japanese empress hospitalised with fever

TOKYO (R) — Empress Michiko was admitted to hospital late Thursday suffering a high fever and a headache, Japan's Imperial Household Agency said.

Court doctors diagnosed two days ago that the 62-year-old empress had herpes zoster, a form of a virus infection that causes rashes along the nervous system.

Empress Michiko complained of a severe headache and high fever late Thursday afternoon after attending an awards ceremony in Tokyo, the agency said.

"The symptoms of herpes zoster were receding, but we decided to hospitalise her highness to avoid the possibility of her developing meningitis," Court Doctor Tatsuo Ikenaga told reporters late Thursday.

Government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference Friday that Empress Michiko's condition appeared stable and that she was heading for recovery.

"We received an unofficial call (from the Household Agency) that her highness's condition has stabilised, with her headache better and fever lower," Mr. Kajiyama said.

Court doctors said Empress Michiko's illness was probably due to fatigue from a two-week trip to South America in late May, when she accompanied Emperor Akihito.

Emperor Akihito and their daughter Princess Nori, 28, visited Empress Michiko at the hospital Friday morning, and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed concern.

"I was worried because she wore a bandage on her arm at a tea party (Wednesday)," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters. "Members of the imperial family work too hard fulfilling public duties. She has a headache so it's best she follows her doctors' advice."

The agency cancelled Empress Michiko's official duties.

Clinton denies sexual harassment

LITTLE ROCK (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has "adamantly" denied the sexual harassment charge brought against him by Paula Jones and asked a federal judge to dismiss her lawsuit.

Mr. Clinton, in a formal response to Ms. Jones' lawsuit, said Ms. Jones was motivated by greed and had collaborated with his political enemies in an attempt to damage his presidency.

He said he had no memory of ever having met Ms. Jones.

"At no time did the president make sexual advances toward the plaintiff or otherwise act improperly in her presence. At no time did the president conspire to or sexually harass the plaintiff," Mr. Clinton's lawyers wrote.

Ms. Jones was a state employee while Mr. Clinton was governor of Arkansas. She claimed he ordered one of his bodyguards to escort her to a Little Rock hotel room during a government conference in May, 1991 and then asked her to perform a sex act. Ms. Jones says she refused.

Her sexual harassment suit, filed against Mr. Clinton and the bodyguard, seeks \$700,000 in damages.

"President Clinton adamantly denies the false allegations contained in the complaint," his attorneys told the court.

They asked Judge Susan Webber Wright to postpone the discovery process until she ruled on Mr. Clinton's motion to dismiss Ms. Jones suit.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers said Ms. Jones' lawsuit failed to meet the criteria for a sexual harassment action and offered no evidence

to suggest she had been emotionally or financially harmed by the alleged incident.

Mr. Clinton's motion said Ms. Jones had "thrust herself into the public limelight" by announcing her lawsuit "at a political event sponsored by vigorous opponents of the president, while seated next to an attorney with whom she had agreed to share the proceeds from any resultant book or film deal."

Mr. Clinton's lawyers noted that the last name of a woman named "Paula" was not published in an article in a conservative magazine that discussed Mr. Clinton's alleged extramarital affairs.

They said Ms. Jones had proclaimed herself as the woman identified only as "Paula" in the article "by joining with long-time political opponents of the president who sought to discredit him and his presidency." The motion did not identify the opponents by name.

Ms. Jones acted, according to Mr. Clinton's motion, "to maximize her potential to derive economic benefit and simultaneously to harm the president politically."

Gilbert Davis, an attorney for Ms. Jones, told CNN that Mr. Clinton's denial did not change his assessment that "the evidence is strong as it's been filed."

The White House referred questions about the matter to Mr. Clinton's personal attorney, Robert Bennett.

Mr. Bennett, speaking to the Washington Post before the papers were filed, said, "the bottom line is we're going to move quickly. It's a very strong pleading and hits the issue very strongly."

Sri Lanka on alert for rebel attacks

COLOMBO (R) — Security in Sri Lanka was stepped up Friday as Tamil Tiger separatists began commemorating the death of their first suicide bombers 10 years ago.

Officials said security has been tightened in the capital Colombo and elsewhere and the military, battling Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the north, was on high alert for rebel attacks.

"We have to be extra careful," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The LTTE, who are fighting a 13-year-old war for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east, commemorate July 5 as Black Tigers Day, in memory of three of their fighters who led the first successful suicide attack against the military a decade ago.

The separatists drove a vehicle filled with explosives into a school building housing an army camp in northern Jaffna on July 5, 1987, killing several soldiers.

Military officials said troops were on high alert for attacks by separatists in the northern brush jungles of the Wanni region where the army is attempting to open a strategic highway to link the Jaffna Peninsula with the rest of the island.

Some 20,000 troops launched operation Jaya Sikuru, or Sure of Victory, in May to wrest control of the highway, which passes through the rebel heartland.

They captured rebel towns in the Wanni before the LTTE hit back with two counterattacks in two weeks last month, slowing the offensive.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war, now in its 14th year. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munsinghe told a news conference Thursday that troops were consolidating their gains in the cap-

itured areas in anticipation of more rebel attacks.

"The LTTE are resorting to terror tactics instead of conventional warfare. We have to prepare ourselves, specially with the experience we have had," he said.

The Clandestine Voice of Tigers radio said the rebels were organising special ceremonies to mark Black Tigers Day.

The radio did not give details.

July is a critical month for Sri Lanka as the rebels commemorate several events that have special significance to the conflict.

Sri Lanka's ethnic war started after the LTTE killed 13 soldiers in Jaffna in July 1983. Island-wide anti-Tamil riots followed, claiming at least 400 lives.

Last year, the rebels overran a big military camp in northeastern Mullaitivu amid reports they killed or captured the entire garrison of more than 1,000 troops.



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Afghans have suffered enough

ONE OF the most tragic scenes in the world today is the ongoing war in Afghanistan. According to the latest reports, the Islamic Taleban militia has seized the headquarters of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani in the north of that war-ravaged country. Certainly the Taleban militia and their supporters are happy and patting each other on the back for a job well-done. Or was it? A few days ago Rabbani's top commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, had pushed back the Taleban fighters in a different part of Afghanistan. Surely the anti-Taleban fighters and their supporters were jubilant for the so-called victory they achieved during that battle.

But the question is who is the winner in this war that has devastated almost all of Afghanistan. Militarily the Taleban seem to have the upper hand at present but they are still far from achieving the final victory they seek, which remains elusive not while there are foreign suppliers of arms to all sides in this unfortunate conflict.

It was not long ago when the people of Afghanistan were called upon to make the greatest sacrifice by resisting a foreign occupation force and returning the country to the leadership of its own people. The cost in human lives and resources was great. It would have taken several decades to overcome the destruction of the country's infrastructure and rehabilitate the people after the first tragic episode. Yet the people of Afghanistan are facing a second phase of tragedies. This time brother is fighting against brother in the name of Islamic purity or against the domination of one ethnic group over another while all sides are claiming to be fighting for the well-being of the Afghan people.

The time has come for the leaders of all sides in the Afghan puzzle to be honest with themselves and cast an objective glance at the situation around them. For if they have the courage to do that they will realise that only outsiders will gain from this kind of fratricide for it is those outsiders who, by supporting one side against the other, are seeking to influence the future of Afghanistan. Afghan leaders should not kid themselves that they are fighting for the Afghan people, for no matter which side wins this destructive war the highest losers will be those same people that all sides claim they are fighting for.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily focused its attention on the ongoing events in the occupied town of Hebron, on the West Bank, where the Israelis and the settlers are committing repressive actions against the Palestinians and defaming Islam and Prophet Mohammad. The paper said that while the Netanyahu government is busy with its own internal problems, it is ignoring all calls for ending the current deadlock in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians and going ahead with plans to build Jewish settlements. Furthermore, the Israeli government is enforcing the hands of the settlers who still live in Hebron and encouraging them to maintain their onslaught on the Arab inhabitants, according to the paper. The bloody events in Hebron ring an alarm bell to the world community: the countries of the region because they could be escalated into a full war between the Palestinians, the Israelis, with devastating consequences to the peace process and the stability of this region, warned the paper. It is hoped, said the paper, that the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, will take immediate measures to salvage the peace process and stop Israel's repressive and aggressive measures against the Palestinians.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm daily said that the United States is adopting a hostile stand towards Egypt because the Arab country is gradually moving away from Israel despite the peace treaty they signed more than 15 years ago. Riham Faru said that Washington is threatening to stop financial aid to Egypt because Egypt is taking a firm stand in the face of the Netanyahu government's policies and backing the Palestinian people's stance and rights. The writer noted that Egypt has recently arrested spies working for Israel and is spearheading the Arab League's calls on the Arab countries to stop normalising relations with the Jewish state until it complies with the requirements of peace. At the same time, the writer pointed out, Egypt is currently implementing a huge economic reform programme which will transform the country into a major power in the region by the end of the present century. In view of these facts, said the writer, Washington is considering Egypt as a hostile force to Israel, which requires a new U.S. policy towards that country.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Doha economic conference — the ball is in the Israeli court

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Saudi Arabia will not attend the next Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha because of the expected presence there of Israel seems to have sealed the fate of the event itself. It is highly unlikely that the Arab World would go ahead with the conference — despite Doha's efforts not to torpedo the forum which it sees as vital for Arab-Arab cooperation rather than Arab-Israeli cooperation.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali made clear in his comments in Bahrain, Wednesday, that Jordan had been attending the MENA conferences since their inception in 1994, if only because of the Kingdom's belief in the very concept of dialogue and interaction among all parties involved as the means to achieve peace through confidence and trust.

Obviously, the Israelis did not share the belief. For them, the equation seemed to have been simple: the military might of the Jewish state is a good enough answer to any Arab demand for justice and international legitimacy and the Arabs should see it as a great favour that Israel is sitting down to peace negotiations at all.

If that is the case, then what is the very point in continuing the process? But calling off the peace talks is not the answer either because it has been firmly established that peace is a strategic option of all parties concerned, except Israel of course, and the alternative is more chaos, instability and insecurity as well as extremism in the Middle East region. Surely no one wants to get to that point either.

In the context of the MENA conference, it would have been much better if all the Arabs did go there despite the Israeli presence and send a strong message to the Israeli businessmen attending the forum that the Arab World simply does not want to do business with them as long as their government pursues an illogical policy that defies the world's will and makes a mockery of international legitimacy.

That could have been the most effective way, under the circumstances, to add pressure on the government of Benjamin Netanyahu. Let us not overlook the fact that the strongest power within Israel, to apply any pressure on the government, is the business community itself, and we could convince Israeli businessmen that they could not hope to do business with the Arabs without respecting the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinians and others; it would become clear to these businessmen, then, that the obvious target for pressure is their own government.

Now that we seem to be short of achieving that goal, what are Jordan's options?

For one thing, Jordan cannot simply stay away from the MENA conference, if indeed it is held. After all, Jordan has made peace with Israel and signed a treaty to that effect which stipulates full economic and trade relations. We are committed to our undertakings and we will live by them.

At the same time, we cannot ignore Arab public opinion either. We are part and parcel of the Arab World and our relations with Israel or any other country cannot and will

not come at the expense of our ties with our Arab brethren. Beyond everything, indeed, is our genuine concern for the setbacks that the Palestinians have received in their negotiations with Israel despite the sweeping concessions they made since the launch of the Oslo process.

Of course, there is indeed the prospect of serious and dramatic changes on the Israeli political scene. If those changes, from now until the end of August, are conducive to reviving hope for a genuine renewal of the peace process, then we are better advised to attend the meeting.

The best choice available to us is to advocate a postponement of the Doha meeting. Unless, of course, Israel makes a genuine move to break the deadlock on the Israeli-Palestinian track of negotiations.

Indeed, we run a major risk here, because Israel might be willing to make public statements of commitment to continuing the peace process in a serious manner and of remaining bound by the Oslo principles, but it could very conveniently change its mind after the MENA conference. That is where we need iron-clad guarantees that Israel will live up to its promises and commitments. And since no one, except perhaps a hesitant U.S., is able to offer such guarantees, we run up against a wall again.

But if the meeting is indeed cancelled or even postponed, that would also serve as a strong message to the Israelis that the Arab World this time means business when it professes wholehearted support for the Palestinian and Arab rights.

Either way, the choice is Israel's.

Botswana loses 'soft' reputation with media clampdown

By Prof Malema
Agence France Presse

GABORONE — Botswana, one of Africa's wealthiest and most liberal states, has lost much of its "soft" reputation, with journalists concerned that a tough new media bill poses a serious threat to free speech.

The draft mass media bill, which goes before Botswana's cabinet on July 9 and could be enacted by mid-August, calls for stiff new penalties for foreign and local journalists who break as-yet unnamed regulations.

All media members, including foreign journalists, would also have to join a state-appointed National Press Council, which can enforce media regulations with prison terms and fines, according to government officials.

The bill, which also requires all media compa-

nies to be 80 per cent owned by local shareholders, would force the country's only two national newspapers, the Botswana Guardian and its sister, the Midweek Sun, to close or be sold.

Both newspapers are 100 per cent owned by William Jones, a British businessman based in Botswana.

Local independent newspapers have described the bill as "shocking" and "heavy-handed."

The southern African press freedom watchdog, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), has termed it "a serious potential threat to freedom of expression and the free flow of information" while the Paris-based lobby group Reporters sans Frontières said in an open letter to President Festus Mogae that it was worried the draft law included "restrictive measures".

The Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) also weighed in on June 28, telling Mr. Masire that the proposed legislation was "an unacceptable infringement on press freedom."

"Botswana has often been cited in recent years as one of Africa's few shining lights, where the press operates freely and fairly," IPI Director Johann Fritz said.

"The enactment of this bill will serve to nullify previous progressive efforts," he added, urging Mr. Masire to scrap the measures.

Mr. Fritz said the proposals contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a resolution protecting press freedom passed recently at a meeting of the Southern African Development Community hosted by Botswana.

"You cannot bring a

harsh law like this in without providing guarantees for press freedom," commented Midweek Sun editor Shimoelogo Boitumelo on June 27.

"I do not think that even Abacha has done what the Botswana government is trying to do," Mr. Boitumelo added, referring to Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha, who has been criticised for his country's human rights record.

Keto Segwai, editor of the Guardian, the country's largest weekly, called on the government to allow individual media outlets to accredit their own journalists, instead of requiring a state registry.

Mr. Segwai also recalled the state was largely controlling the local press through the official news agency, the Botswana Press Agency (BOPA), and the state-run Botswana Daily News.

The government "is

already dictating stories to BOPA, and what will be able to stop officials in future from dictating who should get press cards?" he said.

The Tswana-language paper, Mmegi, has also condemned the bill, calling it "shocking" and "becoming of an old order."

Botswana government officials have countered that the proposed law is a response to foreign domination of the press. During the 1980s, a South African military-backed newsletter, News Link, allegedly spread pro-apartheid propaganda in the country, presidential Permanent Secretary for Administration Philip Matsise said.

Mr. Matsise further argued that "our laws are still weak" and new regulations are necessary to ensure that "our press regulates itself."

Botswana, which has no

national television broadcaster, has been flooded with license applications, including several from overseas countries like Japan and Malaysia, according to officials.

The government, led by president Festus Mogae, has also recently banned foreign filming of the hunter-gatherer San Bushmen, who still eke out traditional livelihoods in the vast central Kalahari game reserve.

Many San have accused the government of trying to force them out of the reserve, which is remote and largely undeveloped, in order to turn it into a lucrative tourist attraction.

The diamond-rich landlocked country of 1.5 million people bordering South Africa has one of the continent's most open markets, and its richest economy per capita.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Premier Majali's tour of Arab states bolstering Jordan's ties with those countries

REVIEWED BY
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies focused their attention last week on the escalating violence in Hebron, the peace process, domestic affairs and pan-Arab issues, in addition to prospects of holding the Doha economic summit in November.

Rashid Hassan, a writer for Al Aswaq, discussed the Israeli settlers' defamation of Prophet Mohammad in posters distributed in Hebron as one link in a long chain of Zionist desecration of the Islamic religion and acts of aggression on Muslim shrines.

He said that the Zionists are known to have desecrated the mosques of Haifa, Jaffa and Acre, in Palestine, sprayed bullets that killed scores of Muslim worshippers in Hebron and burnt Al Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem.

The writer said that Zionism's enmity towards Islam does not end and the Arabs and Muslims are bound to witness many more instances of such barbaric behaviour which represents the Jews' deep hatred towards humanity.

Hilmi Asmar, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, said that the settlers' defamation of Prophet Mohammad and Islam represents a flagrant

aggression on Islam and an offence to 1.2 billion Muslims around the world.

Whenever the Jews see a swastika painted on their graves or the outer walls of their institutions in Europe, they raise the hue and cry and accuse Europeans of being anti-Semitic, noted the writer.

He said that the defamation of Islam by the Jewish settlers in Hebron should draw a strong reaction from Muslims around the world. Indeed, the settlers' action serves as a test and a challenge for the Arabs and Muslims and their real feelings towards their holy shrines and faith.

In light of Israel's practices, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm called on the Arabs to stop using the term peace with Israel, saying that there is no peace process going on and there is no peaceful act on the part of Israel towards the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Taher Adwan said that the term peace, which sprang from the Madrid conference of 1991, is no more viable, in light of Israel's disregard of the peace requirements and the peace accords with the Arabs.

What the Israelis are involved in now is not a peace process but rather a partitioning of the Arab land of Palestine and continued repression of the

Palestinian people, he added.

The writer said that those confronting the Arabs in Palestine are not their cousins but rather their enemies who scoff at the Arabs' feelings, at their religion and prophet, perpetuate their occupation of their lands and holy shrines and continue to massacre the Arabs in Palestine and Lebanon.

A writer for Al Dustour tackled the coming elections, saying that those who try to boycott the elections are scared of being involved in the democratic process.

Any boycott by any party or political group reflects cowardice and an attempt to escape from facing the moment of truth, said Mohammad Daoud.

The writer said that all political factions in the country should take part in the elections, which represent an exercise in democracy, because Jordan is in need of different ideas and an opposition in Parliament to monitor the government's behaviour.

Some of the parties are shying away from the elections for fear of facing a dissatisfactory result but, said the writer, boycotting the elections does not win these groups any more popularity.

He said it is hoped that all factions and all eligible voters will take part in

the coming elections so that democracy can survive.

Oreih Rintawi, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the Islamic action front (IAF) will commit a major blunder if it decides to boycott the coming general elections because experience had shown that boycotting elections has its damaging effect on the parties that exercise such a practice.

The writer said that by boycotting the elections, the IAF will be isolated from the political developments in the country and will gradually be weakened.

If the IAF is boycotting the elections because of the one-person, one-vote system, how can it contribute to reforming this system with no members in Parliament, asked the writer.

He said that the IAF and other opposition parties are needed in parliament to influence the government's decisions on the various laws.

A writer for Al Aswaq said that some people in Jordan have made begging their career and their profession instead of directing their attention to a decent job to earn a living.

The mere presence of beggars in our streets is a shame for the Jordanian society and government, and is a clear indication

of the existence of social and economic imbalances, said Rashid Hassan.

The writer said that the society, in general, and the Ministry of Social Development, in particular, have a duty to address the poverty Jordan has been facing in the past years and to deal with the beggars in a humanitarian manner rather than launching campaigns to arrest them, demanded the writer.

He said that the beggars require assistance to get rehabilitated so that they can embark on a new life.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily, described the Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's current tour of different Arab countries as very important and reflective of Jordan's quiet diplomacy to rally Arab ranks.

The prime minister's visits to the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Bahrain and his coming visit to Egypt are designed to bolster Jordan's ties with the Arab states on the one hand and to end differences among the Arab countries on the other, said the writer.

The Arab World is in need of such an endeavour at a time when the Arab countries are in disarray and differing on common issues, he said, adding that the Kingdom

is keen on maintaining strong ties, backing the idea of a common Arab market and protecting pan-Arab interests.

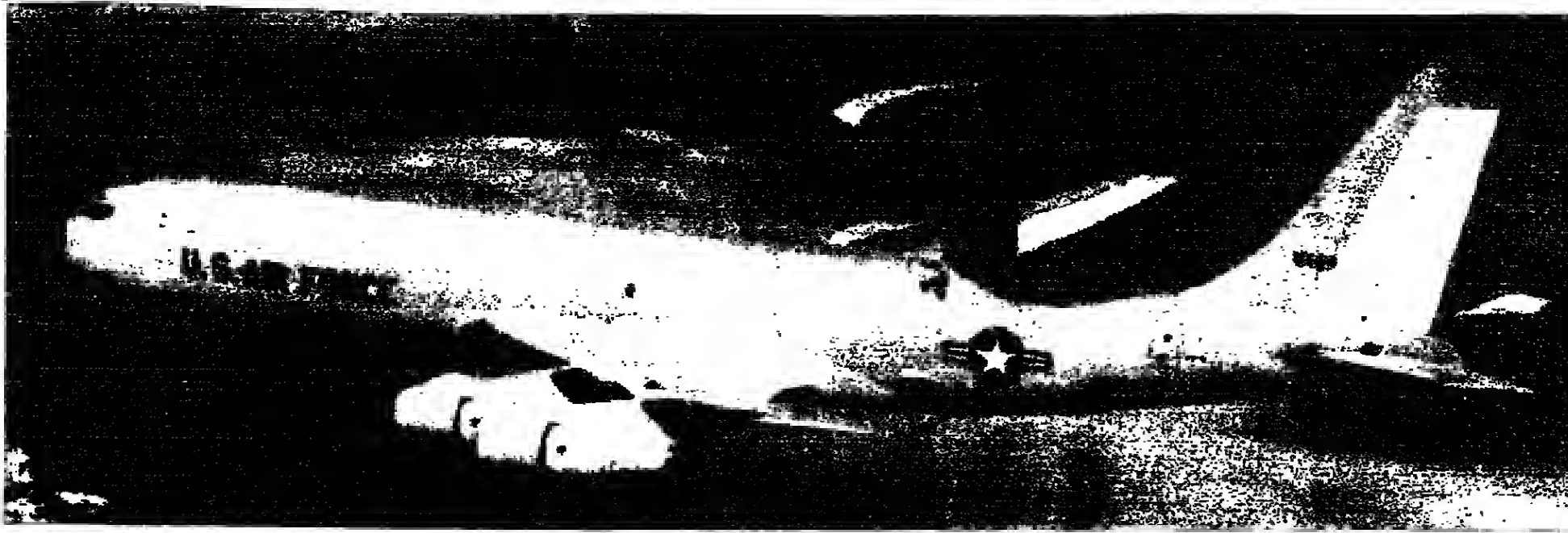
The writer said that the prime minister's tour falls in line with the country's orientation at this crucial stage facing the Arab Nation.

Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that Qatar, which is hosting the economic summit in Doha later this year, should take time to ask for an Arab summit meeting which can decide whether the summit is to be held or not.

The writer said that Qatar should link the Doha summit with progress in the peace process if Israel is to attend the coming meeting.

He added that the Qatari rulers should not place themselves in an embarrassing situation by declaring that the economic summit will definitely be held, at a time when many Arab states are boycotting it, neither should they later announce that it is cancelled, giving reasons for that decision.

The writer said that an Arab summit meeting should decide whether the meeting is to take place or not, in light of Israel's continued actions and disregard of the cause of peace.



An American AWACS spy plane, of the type used by the U.S. to eavesdrop on its closest ally in the Middle East

U.S. spy planes reveal Israel's secrets

By Robert Fisk

WASHINGTON — A United States Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) electronic intelligence gathering aircraft flies up the Israeli border with Jordan every day, "hoovering-up" the radio traffic of its closest Middle East ally. Washington says nothing about the flights — nor their purpose: to spy on the Israeli army and air force, to find out if their public statements on violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their bombing raids on Lebanon accord with the Israeli military communications swept by the U.S. air crews flying out of Saudi Arabia.

Hebrew-speaking crewmen even record the radio traffic of Israeli army units inside the occupied West Bank, noting the exact words of Israeli commanders when they report on confrontations with Palestinian stone-throwers — as well as air-to-air communication by Israeli pilots flying bombing or reconnaissance flights over Lebanon. Full reports of the Israeli radio traffic are routinely forwarded to Washington.

The existence of the

AWACS flights is known to Israel, although U.S. officials have hitherto suggested that their mission is to monitor Iraqi and Jordanian military communications rather than Israeli forces. Israeli intelligence operatives, however, have long been aware that the United States military-trained Hebrew speakers at its language school at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Institute at Monterey, California, which also employs around 100 Arab scholars from Lebanon, Syria and the Gulf, as well as Iraq.

The AWACS missions have been in operation along the Israeli border for at least 12 years; former crewmen say that Israel's military communications have been monitored ever since Israeli aircraft attacked the USS

Yitzhak Rabin as a "mistake" — left the U.S. navy deeply suspicious of Israel's motives and intentions in the Middle East. The Liberty, according to intelligence officials in Washington, was listening in to Israel's strategic weapons site in the Negev Desert in an attempt to predict whether it would launch nuclear strikes against Egypt.

But Israel probably does not need to worry too much about America's eavesdropping. "The USS Liberty incident was never far from our minds," a former AWACS linguist — who flew out of the U.S.-built airbase at Dhahran — told The Independent. "We listened to everything that came out of Israel, just hoovered them up. We would listen to their radio messages from individual Israeli units on the streets of Nablus or Gaza. And we'd hear them say that they'd killed a Palestinian during a riot — even though the Israelis would say officially that they didn't kill anyone. We reported all this back to Washington. Then, after a while, we found that Washington didn't want this information. We

realised we were wasting our time. The information wasn't used."

According to the same source, U.S. AWACS monitors taped all Israeli radio traffic during the 1986 Palestinian intifada. "Our linguists had a bonanza," he said. "The Israelis would say they hadn't killed anyone but we would have heard them say 'three dead'. They were lying publicly. We'd turn round Gaza and then go north up the Jordanian border and then turn back south-east again. We were even listening to the Israeli navy."

The AWACS missions have not always been welcomed by the Saudis. Even before the 1991 Gulf war, the Saudis would refuse permission — without reason — for the AWACS to take off. U.S. monitors flew on super-secret RC-135 reconnaissance missions during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and some quickly learned that their government had long-term ambitions to base intelligence-gathering operations in Saudi Arabia. A U.S. Air Force colonel told one AWACS monitor in October of 1990 that "we've been trying for

years to establish a base here, and now that we're here we're not leaving until they physically throw us out."

Last year, a bomb attack on a U.S. base in Dhahran left 19 American servicemen dead and another 500 wounded. The Saudis themselves bought an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, sending its crew for training at Greenville, Texas.

"Because most of the aeroplane was filled with Arabic linguists and we had the capability to intercept communications from quite a distance, it was almost hopeless trying to convince them (the Saudis) that we would not be listening to 'host country' communications," the former AWACS crew member said. The Saudi government did in fact let us fly a few missions over their country during the Iran-Iraq war, but each one involved an incredible amount of diplomatic wrangling, and we never knew until the day of the mission whether or not we were going to be able to take off."

The Independent

Americans get free access to medical website

By Helen Pettigrew

WASHINGTON — Americans now have access to free medical information through MEDLINE, a website operated by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library. Previously users had to register and pay a fee to use MEDLINE and other NLM services.

The new service was announced by Vice President Al Gore at a news conference hosted by Senators Arlen Specter and Tom Harkin on June 26. The vice president was the first to conduct a free search of the MEDLINE website.

The MEDLINE database holds the most extensive collection of published medical information in the world. It allows individuals and organisations to search the NLM's computer reserve of journal articles on a variety of topics. Currently the website contains more than nine million medical articles from 70 countries, and is growing at a rate of over 1,000 articles per day.

The vice president noted the expedience of the website to the average citizen, and even to physicians, referring to MEDLINE as a "homage that makes house calls."

"From a computer in the comfort of your own home or from one in your neighbourhood library, you will be able to access timely and accurate medical information. Already 30,000 people a day are using MEDLINE. By making it more accessible, free and private, we can increase that number many times over," he said.

Also present at the conference was Suzanne McInerney, a book editor from Pennsylvania, who created MEDLINE eight years ago, before the World Wide Web had been invented. McInerney used MEDLINE to research her 74-year-old mother's cancer.

"My search of the medical literature in MEDLINE led me to an innovative surgery for liver tumours being performed by a doctor in Ohio," she said. "I feel that the surgery helped my mother live an additional four years."

Later, when McInerney's daughter was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, she again used MEDLINE to research treatment options and with the help of her doctor was able to enroll her daughter in experimental therapy available only through clinical trial. Now, two years later, her daughter is free of lymphoma and has returned to her university studies.

Vice President Gore, accompanied by Dr. Donald Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine, and Dr. David Lipman, director of the National Centre for Biotechnology Information, demonstrated the user-friendly technology to the public. In just a few minutes the vice president was able to research information on his damaged Achilles tendon. He also discovered methods of prevention for his children's ear infections.

MEDLINE provides the public with easy access to useful information. "The latest medical breakthrough will be at the fingertips of American families," stated Senator Harkin.

USA

Isolation, hostility face Israel's top academic in Cairo

By Louis Meixler
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The director of the Israeli Cultural Centre in Egypt's capital flips through a thin Arabic-language pamphlet. He stops at a picture of himself with the caption "Professor Sasson Somekh, the famous Jewish spy."

Life in the Arab World's largest city has been frustrating for Mr. Somekh, and it is only becoming more so as Egypt's cold peace with Israel turns frigid.

Egypt's press has stepped up attacks on Mr. Somekh and the centre. Egyptian academics who once considered visiting Israel have halted contacts. Even Mr. Somekh's American-born wife, Terrie, found doors closing — a job offer was withdrawn after a potential employer read a scathing article on the centre.

"We are pariahs here," said Mr. Somekh, 63, a greying, soft-spoken professor of Arabic literature from Tel Aviv University who is one of the world's top experts on Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian author who won the 1988 Nobel prize in literature.

Mr. Somekh said he plans to leave Egypt as soon as his term at the centre ends in October. "We are being treated as though we are trying to rob Egypt of something, not as scholars," he said, sitting in his small office. On the wall is a painting of Saadia Gaon, a Jewish scholar born more than 1,000 years ago in Pay-

sum, a town south of Cairo.

The Israeli academic centre was set up in 1982 by Israel's six universities to boost cultural ties with Egypt after the signing of the Israel-Egypt peace accord. But it was never well received because many Egyptians remain suspicious of their former enemy.

As the Middle East

were changing," said Mr. Somekh, who was born in Baghdad but fled to the newly established state of Israel in 1951 along with many in Iraq's Jewish community.

Mr. Somekh's optimism began to fade after an April 1996 Israeli artillery blitz in southern Lebanon killed almost 100 Arab civilians taking shelter in a United

"When I tell people I am Israeli, the typical response is, 'Why did you elect this awful prime minister?'" said Mr. Somekh, a leftist who opposes Netanyahu's policies. "I hear this every day."

The centre is housed on the third floor of a small building along the Nile that would be unremarkable except for the police officers standing in front with assault rifles.

"I don't feel threatened, but I am careful," Mr. Somekh said.

At a recent lecture at the centre, about a dozen Egyptians — students and professors of Hebrew — chatted in Hebrew with a few Israelis.

Ashraf Mohammed, a recent graduate of Ain Shams University, said he visits the centre despite warnings from family and friends.

"The centre does an important job of strengthening students' knowledge of Hebrew," he said.

In his office, Mr. Somekh displayed his collection of pamphlets on the centre, including "The spy's nest in dear Egypt: the secret files of the Israeli academic centre," the pamphlet includes a picture of Mr. Somekh and identifies him as a Jewish spy.

But Mr. Somekh's dour look quickly turned to a wide grin when asked if he would work at the centre again if relations between Egypt and Israel improved dramatically.

"Absolutely," he said without hesitation. "I would jump at it."

Prince Charles turns architect's dream into reality

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

POUNDBURY, England — On a lush green hillside in rural Dorset, one man's vision of utopia is being realised.

No ugly television aerials sprout from the roofs, no garish neon lights compete with the sunset, cars are tucked away in paved courtyards and there's not a block of concrete to be found.

After years of attacking modern architecture, Britain's future king, Prince Charles, has put theory into practice and tried to show the world how the traditions of the rural past can live in harmony with the needs of modern development.

The urban village of Poundbury, now taking shape on the outskirts of the southwestern market town of Dorchester, is being built on a 162-hectare site sold off by the prince's Duchy of Cornwall estate.

With its winding streets, flint-stone cottages, Georgian-style stone houses and mix of luxury houses and low cost homes for rent, Poundbury embodies the ideals set out by the philosopher prince in his book "a vision of Britain".

"If development in the countryside is going to take place, then I believe it must be done in such a way as to enhance rather than detract from the surrounding landscape."

"That is what we are trying to do at Poundbury, as well as attempt to engender a sense of community within an environment comprising econom-

ic activity and residential use," Prince Charles wrote.

Legendary distaste for modern architecture

The prince's distaste for modern architecture is legendary. He once slammed a proposed extension to London's classical proportioned 18th century National Gallery as a "monstrous carbuncle" and has since set up his own institute of architecture to remedy the onslaught of steel and glass buildings.

He was closely involved in every step of the development at Poundbury, right down to the selection of bricks and street lamps.

About 100 of the planned 2,500 houses are now built and occupied as well as a handful of small craft workshops.

Shops and, crucially, an English village pub are planned over the next two years as the development expands.

The result has been a mixture of styles creating the kind of village that might be recognised by Dorchester's 19th century rural romantic novelist Thomas Hardy.

Sheep graze in a field outside a converted Victorian farmhouse occupied by a U.S. high-technology firm Simech.

Wrought-iron wall lamps shed an orange glow at night. All Poundbury lacks are thatched roofs and horses in the streets.

"It's ambitions are simply retrogressive. It simulates a world of the past and a hierarchy in architecture that doesn't really have a place any more," said architect Piers Gough as building got under way three years ago.

"On the other hand I am glad Prince Charles is building it because at least he can get his teeth into something other than architects. It was about time he either put up or shut up," he said.

Tourist attraction

Despite, or because of, its unique design and royal patronage, Poundbury has already become a tourist attraction in its own right.

"We get tourists, architects, journalists, school trips, you name it," said Peter Bryant, chairman of the Poundbury Resident's Association.

"They expect you to jump about and perform a circus act occasionally... That's the only snag with living here," he said.

The Poundbury villagers, as they like to call themselves, certainly don't feel as if they are living out someone else's dream, although the social mix of retired people, single mothers, young families and a handful of Canadian and Spanish residents is working just as Charles envisaged.

"There is quite a team spirit, quite a togetherness. We had a bonfire night and a rounders evening and those who couldn't play turned out to cheer," said Mr. Bryant. "A pub is planned but

nobody is rioting in the streets. There is quite a social exchange going on here anyway with people popping into each other's places for a glass of wine, a natter or a coffee," he said.

Prince Charles is still a frequent visitor to Poundbury, keen to see reinforced the principles of creating a village atmosphere with a sense of identity in an urban context.

Poundbury's shopping, leisure, workplace and housing will be closely integrated in a move away from the thinking behind Britain's 1950s "new towns" where factories and shops were well separated from homes.

Furniture restorer Spencer Robertson welcomes the chance to have a workshop in Poundbury with both character and central heating.

"Most workshops are out on industrial estates and are just like double garages. But I'm a little disappointed that there are not more craftsmen here. There was a bakery, but that closed down for lack of trade," he said.

Prince Charles has said his aim in promoting a return to traditional building on a human scale is so that his children will inherit a "less ugly and less ecologically damaged world."

Mr. Bryant, enjoying an idyllic retirement in Poundbury, has less lofty hopes.

"I'm just grateful that he (Prince Charles) decided to sell off a plot of land and get on with it," he said.

Lebanon throws tourism fest to lure back Arab visitors

BEIRUT (AFP) —

Lebanon has launched a summer-long Arab tourism festival to lure back visitors from oil-rich Gulf states who once pumped millions of dollars in the country known as the Switzerland of the Middle East.

"Lebanon is gearing up to host fellow Arabs at the grandest tourism festival in its scope," said Tourism Minister Nicolas Fattoush in a brochure sent to all Arab capitals.

The ministry has drawn up an intensive schedule which was launched Tuesday and lasts until Sept. 30 for 32 music and arts festivals as well as wide array of cultural and sports events.

It is part of a strategy to boost revenue from the tourism industry, whose returns constituted 20 per cent of the country's gross domestic product in 1974, a year before the devastating 15-year civil war broke out.

"Today, it is below eight per cent," an official at the Ministry of Tourism statistics department told AFP.

More than 1.2 million tourists visited Lebanon in 1974, of whom 62 per cent were Arab nationals and 21 per cent were from Europe and North America.

The number of tourists only reached 796,661 in 1995, however, before dropping further to

679,146 in 1996, mainly because of Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive that left more than 175 people dead in Lebanon, mostly civilians.

The onslaught, meant to hit guerrillas fighting to oust Israel from south Lebanon, severely damaged the country's infrastructure and reputation as a born-again tourist resort.

"We want to tell the world and the Arabs in particular that Lebanon is a primary tourist resort with its graceful mountains and seashore, rich archaeological sites and cultural events," a tourism ministry official said.

The ministry has been broadcasting three promotional films on local television stations that also air their programmes via satellite throughout the Arab World.

Hotels in Lebanon are offering package deals throughout the summer festival while most restaurants will present a "tourist menu" of between \$7 and \$15.

A special reception desk at Beirut Airport will offer visitors sweets and Arabic coffee as well as special calendars for the non-stop summer events all across the country.

Festivals held amid the spectacular ancient

archaeological sites in Baalbek. Beiteddine, Byblos and Tyre will draw world famous artists such as Russian conductor and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, sopranos Montserrat Caballe and Wilhelmina Fernandez and U.S. jazz singer Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Numerous other festivals, targeting Arab tourists and expatriate Lebanese, will be held in towns and villages across the country with performances by renowned Lebanese and Arab artists.

The summer events also include international trade and industry exhibitions which traditionally attract companies from around the world and particularly from the Gulf area.

The tiny Mediterranean country will also round off the nine-year series of the 1997 Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) class one world offshore championship.

Also on the agenda is the eighth Pan-Arab Games due to draw tens of thousands of visitors to watch more than 2,000 athletes compete from 20 Arab states.

The games will take place at Beirut Sports City, newly-reconstructed with Arab capital after its destruction by

Israeli warplanes during the Jewish state's invasion of the country in 1982.

The complex is considered one of the symbols of Lebanon's 18-billion post-war reconstruction drive to recover from the massive devastation inflicted by the 1975-1990 civil conflict.

"We want the world and the Arabs to come witness this historical drive and at the same time enjoy Lebanon's natural beauty and cultural activities," said the Tourism Ministry official.

Meanwhile, a regional bank said Lebanon's economy will perform well in the coming two years due to a surge in post-war construction activity but its current account will widen.

The real gross domestic product (GDP) of the tiny Arab country grew by four per cent in 1996 compared with 6.5 per cent in 1995 and as high as 38.3 per cent in 1991, the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) said in its monthly bulletin.

"Lebanon's economy is likely to maintain its momentum in the coming two years with investment and private consumption providing the main growth impetus," the biggest Arab financing institution said.

"The country's real

GDP is projected to increase between five and six per cent annually in 1997-1998. The forecast is based on the assumption that the government will further scale down its investment outlays and Lebanon's private sector will continue to play a major role in the economic recovery, especially in the reconstruction process."

The study forecast weak performance of the farming and industrial sectors, among the main hard currency earners for Lebanon. It said the agricultural sector had been worst affected by Israel's three-week blitz against guerrillas in April 1996.

It also blamed the Israeli attack for slower growth in 1996 as it caused losses of around \$500 million and scared off potential investors. "Construction activity remained the main engine of economic activity although its value added to the GDP is less than the agricultural and industrial sectors," the bulletin said.

"The boom in this sector of the economy has been triggered by a combination of Lebanese as well as Arab Gulf investments," it added.

In its outlook for the current account of Lebanon, which was wrecked by a civil war during 1975-1990, the Bahrain-based ABC said the gap would continue to increase in the coming two years

because of an anticipated rise in the trade deficit. This is despite a projected growth in net transfers, it said.

In contrast, the overall balance of payments has remained in surplus over the past few years because of large capital inflows, it added.

It estimated Lebanon's external reserves, excluding gold, at around \$5.9 billion at the end of 1996 compared with \$4.5 billion at the end of 1995 and \$3.9 billion at the end of 1994.

"The country's foreign reserves situation will likely remain strong but will nevertheless continue to be vulnerable to confidence in the economy, government and regional development," it said.

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 5, 1997

By Thomas S. Pietsch, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can make some valuable new friends today, so be charming and polite. Be very careful while you are driving or walking late this evening, thereby you cannot get into any difficult situations in the days ahead.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A fellow associate who is down in the dumps today needs a little ego boost, so lend this individual some assistance. If you are having difficulty with a project later this evening, get some expert advice.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make an appointment today for a pleasant get-together with some of your best friends at recreational activities you all will enjoy. You should not become involved later this evening in a rich quick scheme.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your home in perfect order this morning, then invite your most charming friends in for an evening of fun and frivolity. This is a good time to go out on the town for recreational activities which are fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are succinct in all your communications today, you can pull off a great coup in business, although your efforts show your friends how much you value them by going out for the evening at a fun spot.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be more cooperative with your daily business contacts today, and get better results than usual. A financial expert can give you some good advice later this evening on clever activities, so be sure you listen carefully.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Remember the old adage: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," so plan to do some interesting recreational activities with your friends. It is extremely important that you don't drive recklessly later this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Any secret desire you have can be realized today with just a little effort your part. A small present to your mate later this evening will improve this person's mood, so make the effort to show your appreciation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your social life can bring you some wonderful benefits at this time, especially this evening. Be sure to think before you speak or you are likely to say something which will cause you a great deal of difficulty.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact persons in the same line of business as yourself today, and benefit from the experience. Take care of a troubling credit matter which you have put off for some time and which could resurface.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be alert today, and make notes of your ideas for business, since your memory may not be its best. Join in with a happy group of friends at recreational activities which will please every one involved.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study every phase of your relationship with your mate today, and find out how to improve communications with him or her. You should not overindulge later this evening or you could find yourself regretting the experience.

BIRTHDAYS OF JULY: Pearl — Ruby — Tiger's Eye

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB	MYR
US Dollar	1.7415	0.8913	1.4550	114.85	1.3820	1700.00	1.9888	8.8670	
DE Mark	0.5742	-	0.3449	0.8364	68.84	0.7931	1.1247	3.3683	
GB Sterling	1.8630	2.0930	-	2.4081	100.45	2.2583	2.827.10	3.2575	8.7588
CH Franc	0.8873	119.61	0.4127	-	78.92	0.9492	1167.58	134.88	4.0286
JP Yen	0.0047	1.1510	0.8228	1.2858	-	1.2023	14.79	170.40	5.1040
CA Dollar	0.7234	1.2353	0.4304	1.0710	1.20	-	1203.85	1.3900	4.1075
IT Lira	0.0004	1.0241	0.3534	0.8858	1481.82	0.8127	-	11.52	3.4502
NL Guilder	0.5105	88.86	0.3066	74.27	88.39	0.7062	347.44	-	2.9937
FR Franc	0.1704	0.2967	0.1624	24.7913	19.56	0.2355	33.58	33.3800	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	ADH	IRR	TRY
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6398	0.3022	3.6720	1535.50	3.3830
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2972	0.5324	5.1410	0.4268	5.1877	2168.79	4.7824
GB Sterling	0.2868	0.1688	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0806	0.98	408.42	0.9047
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	3.8488	-	9.58	0.8015	9.74	4073.27	9.0607
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0830	1.01	421.88	0.9322
Kuwait Dinar	3.3098	2.3432	12.4124	1.2478	12.88	-	12.18	5087.91	0.9322
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0208	0.9919	0.0823	-	418.06	0.9238
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4611	2.4425	2.3455	2.3704	0.1985	2.3920	-	2.2087
Egyptian	0.2947	0.2087	1.1053	0.1111	1.0727	0.0881	1.0825	452.55	-

Energy			JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Unit	Price	Currency	Rate	Rate
Coffee (c/b)	185.87	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1898	Spot	GB Sterling	1.7761	1.782
Sugar (\$/ton)	326.5	Spot	DE Mark	0.4088	0.4088
Wheat (\$/ton)	148	Spot	CH Franc	0.4055	0.4083
Soye (c/b)	22.2	Spot	FR Franc	0.1205	0.1211
Tea (kg/kg)	138	Spot	JP Yen	0.0169	0.02
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3614	0.3632
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	IT Lira	0.4161	0.4182

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Compaq Deskpro 4000N Delivers Lower Cost, Structured-task Computing

Compaq Computer Corporation is breaking new ground in the reduction of total ownership costs with its launch of the Compaq Deskpro 4000N. It aims to simplify desktop computer management with the introduction of the Compaq Deskpro 4000N, one of the first products to embody the Network PC specification, for which Compaq was one of five co-authors.

The small-footprint Compaq Deskpro 4000N delivers, in a scalable case design, many of the same benefits and functionality of conventional PCs. However, the scalable case design also lowers administration costs by enabling central control of hardware and software configurations. Based on industry-standard technology, the Compaq Deskpro 4000N protects customers' investments in PC-based systems and applications.

"As the largest supplier of commercial desktop PCs in the world, and in the Middle East, Compaq is well-known for incorporating world-class management technology into its products," said Dr. Walid Moukime, managing director, Compaq Computer Middle East. "The Deskpro 4000N continues this commitment by extending the benefits of the PC client, which supports Windows- and JAV-based technologies, and by further providing for central control of the desktop software and hardware configuration."

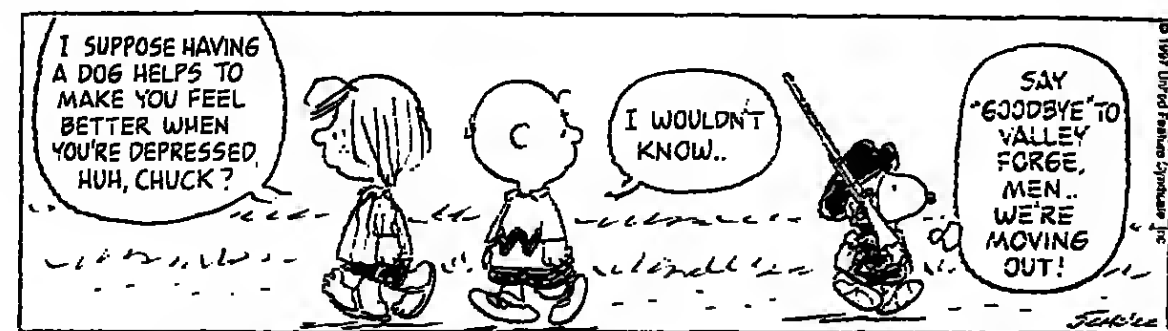
The Compaq Deskpro 4000N allows users to centrally deploy and maintain consistent software configurations while minimising work associated with hardware upgrades. This should reduce the time and cost of desktop management and provide users with access to the business applications and PC productivity tools they need to work at maximum efficiency.

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT
Located at Dahiyat Al-Rashid
Two floors — American style. Consists of 7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 garages, guest and sitting lounges, waterwell, telephone with internal extensions. Suitable for diplomatic missions.
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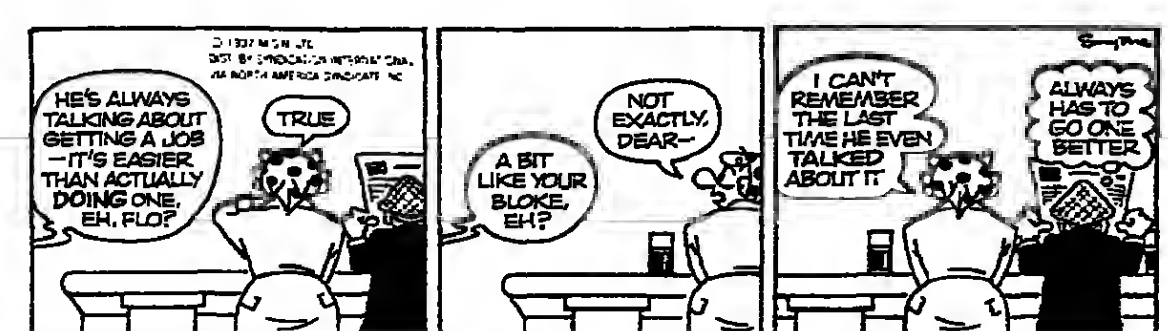
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1 With reference to

5 "that touch liquor"

9 Ooze

13 Forest ruminant

14 Worksite

15 Isle of —

17 Prelude to discovery

20 Vessel: abbr.

21 Org.

22 Waited

23 Sluggish Mel

25 Peculiar

27 "Nautilus"

28 commander

30 Beam

32 Movie studio monogram

33 Border

34 Kitchen appliance

36 Nero's trio

39 References

42 Whitney

43 Transfer pictures

44 Voice

45 Some dogs.

47 Toward shelter

48 Hooligan

49 Middle East prince

51 School subj.

52 Morass

53 Flowers

55 Olio

58 Equal: pref.

61 Jean Paul Sartre et al.

64 Heated quarrel

65 Clears

66 Map abbrs.

67 Actress Cannon

68 Services that count

69 Movie dog

DOWN

1 — of March

2 Following

3 Cloning, e.g.

4 Before

5 Clark's lady

6 Doctrines

7 Relating to observable facts

8 — Bernardino

9 Wound remnant

10 Partaking of a repast

11 Disease sleuths

12 Preface

16 — China

18 Squealer

19 Shaver

24 Yugoslav ruler

26 Bounce the baby

28 Article of merchandise

29 Adam's son

30 Capital of Togo

31 Purgative

32 "The A-Team" member

35 Liberalize

37 Division word

38 "The bird — the wing"

40 Docs

41 Desdemona's nemesis

46 Arm of grain

49 Tavern drinks

50 Blended

51 Comp. pt.

52 — canto

54 Collage jacket

56 Adjutant

57 Church service

59 Printing term

60 Greek peak

62 Gun gp.

63 A Gershwin

PEARL	ROWS	OLAF
A	C	O
R	H	O
M	I	C
S	U	E
B	L	I
L	O	E
P	H	O
A	L	E
T	E	R
E	R	A
A	L	L
T	A	T
E	D	I
T	O	R
S	C	A

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

National Textile and Plastic Industries Company narrows loss

**** PRODUCTION WAS** disrupted during the months of December 1995 and January-February 1996 at the plant of the National Textile and Plastic Industries Company but the firm was still able to produce 1,150 tonnes, representing 82 per cent of the plant's production capacity. Board Chairman Faisal Ben Khadra told the general assembly that the production disruption was done to the inability of the exporter to implement the letters of credit opened in its favour until a very late date. "As such, resuming production became possible only by late February," the chairman told the shareholders.

Mr. Ben Khadra said the company was able to market 1,375 tonnes, representing 91.1 per cent of the production capacity and 110.9 per cent of the actual output. However, the volume of sales executed was 1,123 tonnes representing 80.21 per cent of the production capacity and 97.7 per cent of the actual production. He noted that part of the sales was from the stocks produced in 1995 and that 294.1 tonnes were to be delivered in 1997.

The chairman revealed that 430 tonnes or 38.1 per cent of the sales were exports to Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon and Sudan. He expressed the hope that the company will be able to market most of its production for 1997 estimated to be around 1,400 tonnes.

On the financial side, the company narrowed its loss in 1996 to JD161,000 from JD331,000 loss posted in 1995. As such, the accumulated loss at the end of last year

amounted to JD492,580 (JD331,570 at the end of 1995). Mr. Ben Khadra credit the ability to penetrate new markets and obtaining rewarding prices there and at the local market during the second half of last year for the success in narrowing the loss in 1996.

The company's total sales amounted to JD1.5 million last year and the shareholders' equity totalled about JD2 million noting that the paid-up capital is JD2,496,000 (A1 Ra'i + A1 Aswag).

Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronic and Heavy Industries distributing JD2.2m in dividends

**** NET PROFIT** generated by the Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronic and Heavy Industries Company accounted JD1.83 million, 4.7 per cent less than the 1995, net profit. After adding JD1.25 million of retained earnings from previous years, the net profit available for allocation rose to JD3.09 million.

As such, the general assembly has approved distributing JD2.2 million in dividends at a rate of 10 per cent of the JD22 million capital.

The company earned at total JD6.03 million in 1996 but the administrative and general expenses amounted to JD4.2 million. Total assets increased from JD41 million in 1995 to JD41.56 million at the end of 1996 (A1 Ra'i).

Economic success of Internet unproven — Novell executive

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Despite the glut of Cyber-space-related products, the economic success of the Internet remains unproven, and many businesses have failed to make it profitable, a U.S. software executive has said.

Glenn Ricart, chief technology officer of Novell Inc., said the fact that there is "no proven economic model" for the Internet is the biggest challenge the high-technology communications facility faces.

Addressing the Internet society's annual conference, Mr. Ricart said, "we have most companies losing money in this."

He noted that software giant Microsoft Corp is giving away Internet products including its browser Internet Explorer.

None of the companies involved in Internet "are making a reasonable profit" he said. Even those which

have attempted subscription services have not been very successful, he said.

One problem is that advertising in Cyberspace has been losing its effectiveness, Mr. Ricart said. He said that in the past 90 days, he has found the "click through" rate of Internet users clicking on advertising banners on web sites to see their contents has been declining.

"There's a novelty factor," he said, noting that Internet users were inclined to lose interest in such ads the more they surfed the net.

Companies like Yahoo Inc. which sell such advertising are "finding the rate they can charge is going down," Mr. Ricart said.

Yahoo said in April it had 700 advertisers, up from 550 at the end of 1996. It had been getting about \$0.02 to \$0.06 per advertisement viewing, with slightly higher rates for Yahoo services aimed at specialty markets.

Targeted advertising, which focuses on a set group of customers instead of randomly placed Cyberspace promotions, could be the way to go, Mr. Ricart said.

This form of advertising "could be a means for financing the Internet," he said.

Novell itself has boosted its Internet focus and makes web servers.

Mr. Ricart's speech at the end of the three-day Internet conference that drew over 1,000 participants from 120 countries also outlined nine other challenges the 25-year-old Internet faces.

Among these are governments feeling threatened, difficulty in finding people and companies, an ageing design for Internet, security, and inefficient bandwidth use, Mr. Ricart said.

Earlier in the week, the Internet society held panel discussions on electronic commerce, and heard from Magazine, special adviser to U.S. President Bill Clinton, outline a forthcoming report on global Cyberspace commerce.

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ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (28/06/1997 - 02/07/1997)

WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	No. OF CONTRACTS	No. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
257,000	257,000 ARAB BANK	12.1	1.52	50	6860	1745670	257.00	264.50	252.00	261.50	+6.50	257.357	155	5
2,150	3,010 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	153	128311	263166	2.13	2.13	2.07	2.10	-0.03	2.098	306	5
5,400	5,900 CALSO AMMAN BANK	11.8	2.63	7	4170	33558	5.60	5.72	5.45	5.70	+0.10	5.649	042	3
2,540	2,100 BANK OF JORDAN	6.9	0.00	24	8444	27807	3.42	3.35	3.32	3.30	-0.12	3.351	000	6
2,980	2,930 MID. EAST INV. BK.	61.7	0.00	20	29550	14489	9.96	9.96	9.93	9.94	-0.02	9.92	156	5
2,280	2,220 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	0.4	7.48	11	556917	124846	1.36	1.36	1.35	1.36	-0.01	1.350	093	3
5,000	6,900 THE HOUSING BK.	15.9	3.88	102	176332	974609	4.31	5.10	4.07	5.00	+0.09	4.940	705	5
4,100	2,940 JOR. KUNALZ BANK	13.5	0.00	50	834330	3137185	4.18	4.18	3.25	3.25	-0.93	3.980	534	5
920	800 JOR. GULF BANK	5.3	8.05	35	41300	36127	0.89	0.89	0.87	0.87	-0.02	0.875	207	6
3,700	3,430 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	25.4	3.17	71	35712	122870	3.66	3.79	3.58	3.70	+0.12	3.721	245	5
1,250	1,110 UNION SEC. INV. BK.	303.5	0.00	6	1350	3562	1.19	1.19	1.15	1.18	-0.01	1.175	042	5
2,250	2,000 JOR. INV. FID. BANK	20.1	0.00	10	161550	511908	3.18	3.18	3.13	3.13	-0.05	3.150	1674	4
1,200	2,040 BILT. AL-HAL (BETRA)	-	12.93	14	3401	3873	1.17	1.16	1.12	1.16	-0.01	1.139	170	3
1,110	1,050 PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	6	1778	1731	1.05	1.03	1.03	1.03	-0.02	1.030	018	2

SECTOR	503	1675163	7039803	INDEX NUMBER	201.15	CHANGE	+1.247							
2,200	2,150 GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	33.2	7.58	2	560	1232	2.30	2.20	3.30	-	2.700	047	1	
4,000	4,000 JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.5	5.19	3	50220	193217	4.00	3.85	2.80	3.85	- .15	3.850	4772	2
1,700	1,700 JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.7	12.09	6	3300	2155	1.70	1.67	1.66	1.66	- .04	1.661	055	3
1,940	1,940 ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.6	4.55	4	550	1140	1.94	2.20	2.04	2.20	+ .26	2.007	028	3
2,450	2,210 JORDAN GULF INSUR.	-	0.00	9	3414	6854	2.31	2.21	1.99	3.31	-	2.008	303	2
5,500	5,800 ALMUTZ AL-AHAB	13.7	0.00	4	1090	6331	5.50	5.70	9.78	5.70	+ .20	5.757	110	1

INDEX NUMBER	SECTOR			26	57143	311051	INDEX NUMBER	114.17	CHANGE	+1.397				
1.650	1.640 JOR. ELECTRIC ENR.	8.3	5.99	58	30091	50911	1.47	1.47	1.63	1.67	-	1.648	706	5
3.400	3.350 TRIZO ELECTRICITY	8.2	8.23	5	1300	1754	1.38	1.38	1.30	1.38	-	1.380	041	3
2.450	2.650 ELKEM JORDAN	33.9	6.32	3	500	1275	2.65	2.55	2.55	2.55	-0.10	2.550	429	1
8.790	8.220 ARAB TITEL NOVELS	16.0	3.85	6	1350	1718	5.72	5.20	5.00	5.20	-0.07	5.164	015	3
1.350	1.350 KHE. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	121	142167	185425	1.26	1.34	1.23	1.34	+0.08	1.305	7843	5
1.870	860 REAL ESTATE INV.	12.3	6.90	1	100	87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	-	0.870	007	1
920	480 JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	10	10301	5141	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.50	-0.01	0.495	303	4
6,000	3,900 AD-DUSTOUR	25.4	3.38	1	300	3250	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.25	+0.25	6.250	011	1
1,300	1,210 MID. EAST HOTELS	19.0	0.00	13	2050	3562	1.30	1.41	1.25	1.25	-0.05	1.285	056	6
2,980	2,770 JOR. INV. FID. ENCO.	7.6	0.00	19	12850	3840	2.98	3.02	2.90	2.91	-0.07	2.974	127	5
1,090	950 KAREM EDUCATION	-	0.00	23	20590	19418	0.95	0.97	0.94	0.94	-0.03	0.947	456	6
1,720	2,650 UNIFIED CO.	8.3	6.43	27	18550	31394	1.71	1.71	1.67	1.71	-0.04	1.692	371	5
480	660 UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	6	970	667	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.68	-0.03	0.688	019	3

SECTOR	351	242569	244445	INDEX NUMBER	108.47	CHANGE	+0.527							
1,030	1,030 ATTANJEER	-	0.00	6	10290	10574	1.01	1.03	1.00	1.03	-	1.028	368	2
4,170	4,000 JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	3.70	201	336631	1369494	4.07	4.12	4.04	4.07	-	4.053	554	5
4,000	2,900 JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	21.3	6.00	10	112051	644620	2.90	4.00	3.94	4.00	+0.10	3.968	755	5
4,750	4,600 ARAB POWER CO.	15.75	3.01	21	34550	97134	6.74	6.70	6.63	6.65	-0.09	6.676	018	4
10,070	9,500 JOR. PETROL. REFINERIES	9.4	9.32	32	3694	35451	9.52	9.90	9.70	9.75	-0.17	9.837	056	5
5,100	4,010 JORDAN TANNING	7.2	5.08	7	420	2531	6.10	5.55	5.90	5.90	-0.20	5.916	043	3
1,270	1,260 WOODEN INDUSTRIES	10.8	8.00	4	5540	7175	1.27	1.30	1.25	1.25	-0.02	1.295	554	2
2,000	3,920 INDUSTRIAL COM. AC.	-	0.00	8	2190	4170	1.53	1.92	1.80	1.80	-0.05	1.804	044	6
5,600	4,400 JOR. WOODST. MILLS	10.1	2.17	6	1400	8528	6.40	6.50	6.30	6.30	-0.10	6.377	035	2
2,930	2,930 JOR. PAPER. MANF.	11.0	4.99	150	195451	774747	3.85	4.02	3.80	4.01	+0.16	3.854	236	5
4,900	4,700 JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	6.7	2.05	8	5125	33064	6.70	6.70	6.55	6.55	-0.15	6.608	205	4
2,220	2,300 JORDAN DAIRY	8.0	10.36	2	620	590	2.33	2.36	2.36	2.36	+0.04	2.357	024	1
1,400	1,270 JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	37.0	5.84	2	750	1020	1.30	1.37	1.37	1.37	-0.01	1.371	023	1

Hingis must mend grasscourt strategy; Novotna confident

LONDON (Agencies) — Martina Hingis hopes she will one day learn to love Wimbledon like her namesake and nine times champion Martina Navratilova, but admits she must first mend the holes in her grasscourt strategy.

Jana Novotna, one of the most talented players over to win Wimbledon, has promised that whatever the result there will be no tears this time when she faces world No. 1 Hingis for the women's singles crown at the All England Club on Saturday.

Hingis, who has virtually rewritten the record books at every major Grand Slam event over the past 12 months, will be making her third consecutive appearance in a 'major' final.

The 16-year-old top seed has lost only one singles match this year, to Iva Majoli in last month's French Open final, and has not dropped a set in her six matches here, but admits to an aversion for the faster grass surface.

"I hate this court, I hate grass, because you have to think differently on this surface," said Hingis after beating Russian prodigy Anna Kournikova in Thursday's semifinal.

Hingis's sensational rise to the top in world tennis at such a young age has fuelled speculation she has the potential to challenge Navratilova's Wimbledon record.

"I'm a little different player than she is," said Hingis, who was named after Navratilova by her mother Melanie who is also her coach. "I mean, she just must have loved this tennis court here, especially the Centre Court."

"She just loved the Wimbledon tournament. Hopefully I will love it one day too."

Hingis, who replaced Steffi Graf as the world number one in March, said she found it difficult to play the aggressive role required of the faster surface, adding it was a mental problem.

The Czech-born Swiss, who became the youngest Grand Slam champion this century by winning the Australian Open in January, has already etched



Martina Hingis

her name in the Wimbledon record books as the youngest female singles finalist in the Open era.

Graf was the previous youngest finalist, when as an 18-year-old she lost to Navratilova in 1987. Hingis has the chance to wipe the German's name from the 'youngest ever' Wimbledon record books completely if she wins, bettering her singles record as a 19-year-old champion in 1998.

Novotna, 12 years Hingis's senior, has improved with every match and blasted her way past Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals with a ruthless display of serve and volley tennis.

Novotna won the hearts of Wimbledon fans after sobbing on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder following her loss to Steffi Graf in the 1993 final when she had



Jana Novotna

Pen pictures of the women's singles finalists at Wimbledon

Martina Hingis v Jana Novotna
Head-to-head: 3-2 Hingis

- Martina Hingis (Switzerland) — WTA ranking 1.
- Age 16.
- Height 1.67 m.
- Weight 52 kg.
- Grand Slam victories: Australian Open (1997).
- Path to the final: Anne Kremer (Luxembourg) 6-4 6-4, Olga Barabanshikova (Belarus) 6-2 6-2, Nicole Pietrangeli (U.S.) 6-1 6-3, Sabine Appelmans (Belgium) 6-1 6-3, Denisa Chladkova (Czech Republic) 6-3 6-2, Anna Kournikova (Russia) 6-3 6-2.
- Became the youngest Grand Slam champion in the Open era when she won the Australian Open in January.
- Took over as world No. 1 from Steffi Graf in March.
- Has not dropped a set in the tournament. Last year became youngest-ever Wimbledon champion when she won the women's doubles with Helena Sukova.

- Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) — WTA ranking 4.
- Seeding 3.
- Age 28.
- Height 1.75 m.
- Weight 63 kg.
- Grand Slam victories: none.
- Path to the final: Wiltrud Probst (Germany) 6-4 4-6 6-0, Elena Likhovtseva (Russia) 6-1 4-6 6-4, Gala Leon Garcia (Spain) 6-4 6-2, Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.) 5-7 6-4 7-5, Yayuk Basuki (Indonesia) 6-3 6-3, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-4 6-2.
- Runner-up here in 1993, she beat Monica Seles in Madrid Open final in May and reached the rain-out final of the warm-up tournament in Eastbourne.

been within reach of victory.

"In 1993 I was still trying to prove, not only to myself but to everyone else, that I was a good player. But, because I was trying so hard, I was never able to play my best tennis."

Novotna's outlook and values began to change a couple of years ago when her father was taken ill.

Although he recovered, he has recently been unwell again and is currently undergoing treatment in a Czech hospital.

"It has made me think. What is tennis compared to health?" she asked, adding: "And it has helped me find a happy medium between enjoying life and enjoying my tennis career."

"These days I am more relaxed and consequently I am playing better tennis."

"It's sad that my parents can't be here this year — but they have been watching my matches on television at the hospital and I know that my wins have cheered them up."

And against Hingis — the 16-year-old who has been rewriting the record books all year by becoming the youngest-ever world number one and winning all but one of her 44 tour matches — Novotna thinks she has a good chance.

The third-seeded Czech, who will move up to a career-high second spot in the new WTA rankings on Monday, has won two of her five matches against the Swiss player and this will be their first encounter on grass — Novotna's favourite surface.

Sampras, Pioline advance to final

LONDON (Agencies) — World No. 1 and three-time champion Pete Sampras celebrated American independence day in style on Friday by reaching the Wimbledon singles final after gunning down Australian Todd Woodbridge in straight sets.

The 25-year-old American, who won here in 1993, 1994 and 1995, defeated half of the world's top doubles team 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) in 1hr 44mins.

Later in the day, Cedric

Pioline of France overcame 1991 champion German Michael Stich 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to advance to his first Wimbledon final following a rain-delayed men's semifinal.

Woodbridge, ranked 37th, was so outplayed at the start of the match he looked as though he needed his regular partner Mark Woodforde alongside him to keep the ball in play, such as Sampras' devastating forehand.

"Maybe that would have helped cover some of the

holes in my game," said Woodbridge, who added: "There were winners flying all over the place. Today I played one of the greatest players in the world — playing great tennis — and I have a pretty good chance of winning the title again."

Not many people get to appreciate how good a player he is because they're not on court with him. If he stays healthy, there's nothing to stop him winning seven or eight Wimbledon titles.

"I'm very confident and ready to play. I'd rather be in the final at Wimbledon than anywhere else."

Sampras, who now plays in the Sunday final, said: "I don't remember Wimbledon that I've ever played as well as I have this year. I've been playing some of the best tennis of my life."

Sampras, who won the 1993, 1994 and 1995 titles, said: "I'm very confident and ready to play. I'd rather be in the final at Wimbledon than anywhere else."

"I'm very confident and ready to play. I'd rather be in the final at Wimbledon than anywhere else."

Champion Becker bids farewell

LONDON (Agencies) — Boris Becker left a gaping hole at the summit of men's tennis on Thursday by choosing his favourite Wimbledon stage to announce his retirement from top-level competition.

The three-times singles champion announced that he had played his last Wimbledon after being beaten by Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals of the men's singles.

The 29-year-old German, who won the title here in 1985, 1986 and 1989 and was a finalist 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995, said he would play a few more tournaments but he would not be playing any more grand slam events after 1997.

Becker, who dived into Wimbledon history by winning the men's singles title as a 17-year-old in 1985, confirmed he had played his final match at the All England Club and will not compete in any more grand slam tournaments after this year.

He has yet to decide whether he will compete in this year's U.S. Open, but after that will restrict himself to smaller tournaments and the Davis Cup.

Becker's illustrious career has brought him six Grand Slam titles and respect far beyond his native Germany, but he will be 30 in November and has decided that a seventh major title is now beyond him.

"I'm in the type of guy who likes to go into a Grand Slam tournament with a chance of winning it and I don't feel I have what it takes to go all the way any more," he said.



Germany's Boris Becker waves to the crowd following his defeat by top seed Pete Sampras of the U.S. at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Becker said he told Sampras immediately after the game that this was his final appearance on Centre Court (Reuters photo).

"I feel very relieved. I feel I have come to the end of the road with my head held high. I always like to go out on top. Right now I feel I'm on top of the mountain. I can only go down."

Becker, who also won two Australian Open titles and the U.S. Open in 1990, has been struggling for much of the past year with wrist problems and his world ranking has slipped to 18.

But images of the red-haired, powerful youth from Leimen near Frankfurt remain part of Wimbledon

folklore and only Andre Agassi of the current overseas players can boast such 'enduring' appeal amongst the fans.

"I've been here so many times and under difficult circumstances, but I was always made to feel one of them," said Becker, who has played in the last 14 consecutive Wimbledon championships. "Wimbledon means more than just winning for me."

Sampras was as surprised as anyone when Becker approached him at the net at the end of the match and

told him his secret, but was quick to provide a heartfelt tribute to one of his great rivals.

"It's a bit of a sombre feeling, but I feel honoured in a way that I was his last match. I thought he was a class act on and off the court. There aren't too many guys out there who have that presence and awe that Boris has."

"Wimbledon and Boris went together. This is where he made his mark. If he'd played here next year I'm sure he could have done well. He's one of the best players I've ever played."

It was ironic that Becker's bombshell should land on the day compatriot Michael Stich, who has announced he will be retiring in September, ensured there would be a German presence in the last four.

But Becker insisted his decision was "something I've thought about for a long time."

"Obviously, with my injury last year I had strong doubts of ever coming back... I always wanted it to be me who makes the decision, not my body or something else."

With 49 singles titles and 15 doubles titles to his credit, Becker has lasted longer than either he or the 'ever-attentive' German press often predicted.

"Those first couple of years after I won Wimbledon for the first time, so many things happened to me professionally and in my private life that I didn't think I could last," he said 18 months ago.

"I didn't think the desire for tennis could be greater than the loss of privacy."

"I had my years when tennis was not my main priority, but in the back of my mind I never gave up."

His wife Barbara and three-year-old son Noah have increasingly given Becker a more fulfilling life away from tennis, which has absorbed him since he gave up soccer and picked up a racket seriously at the age of 12.

There are still many who feel he is going too soon. "He's one of the few players on the tour who still has a presence, who appears to control the show when he's out there," said Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Yet those who know him will recognise his decision as typical of an intelligent man who has always refused to take the easy, automatic option.

"It seems 20-25 years ago that I first won Wimbledon," he said in early 1995.

"The amount of time I have to spend working on my profession is almost double what it used to be... I'm having to work more to keep up with the teenagers."

Unless he changes his mind, the younger generation seem to have finally worn him down.



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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company Limited is launching a major project to upgrade its computing facilities. The company is seeking a highly qualified, experienced and motivated professional to head its IT department. Immediate responsibilities of the IT department head include leading a team of professionals in interacting with and supervising the contractor in the upgrade project. The contract involves acquiring state of the art hardware, networking, communication, and business application software. The contractor according to internationally acceptable standards will develop part of the application software. The contractor will implement an internationally recognised packaged solution for the rest of the business applications. Computing in the company is moving towards the client/server model. Relevant experience, excellent spoken and written English, and a university degree in computer science or engineering are necessary. Attractive salary and benefits will be offered to successful applicants.

To apply, candidates should fill relevant forms available from the Personnel Department, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Mutanabee Street (P.O. Box 1079, Amman - 11118). Please attach a complete up-to-date resume of work experience, personal data, salary history, including copies of academic and technical qualifications. Last date to apply is July 15, 1997.

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Shows: 3:30, 6:00

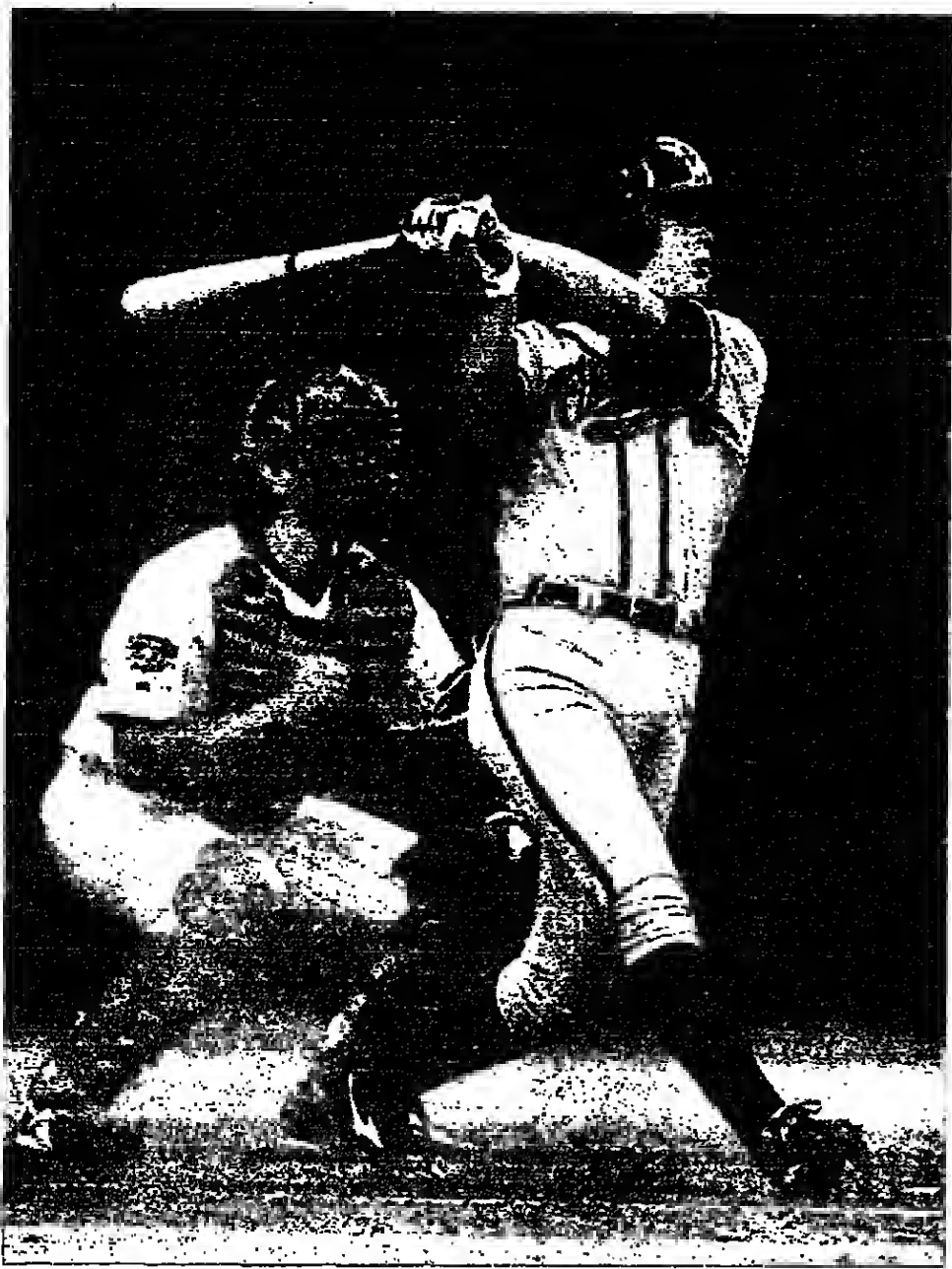
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Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones follows through on a two-run double during fourth inning action against the Montreal Expos at Olympic Stadium in Montreal. The Braves went on to score nine runs in the inning. Expos catcher Darrin Fletcher looks on (Reuters photo)

Will Clark three-run homer helps Rangers beat Rockies

ARLINGTON (R) — The wind took one away from Will Clark but he got another chance, and this time made sure with a three-run homer as the Texas Rangers beat the Colorado Rockies 8-3 Thursday to sweep their two-game series.

Mark McLemore led off the sixth with a single off Rockies starter Kevin Ritz, moved to third on a double by Ivan Rodriguez and scored on a sacrifice fly by Rusty Greer to tie the score 1-1. Juan Gonzalez singled Rodriguez to third and Clark sent a 2-0 pitch over the center-field fence for his eighth homer and first since May 30.

"I got a hold of one to right but the wind knocked that one down," said Clark about a flyout in the fourth inning.

"Fortunately the guys gave me another chance. It was a 2-0 sinker over the plate and I got it out to center."

"We're swinging the bats well right now and I think that has a lot to do with being at home."

Darren Oliver (5-9) allowed three runs and four hits over 8 1/3 innings as Texas won consecutive games for the first time since mid-June.

Ritz (6-8) gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings as the Rockies suffered their third straight loss. Colorado hit just .131 (8-for-61) in the two losses to Texas.

Vinny Castilla hit his 21st homer for Colorado, a two-run shot in the ninth.

In San Francisco, J.T. Snow hit a pair of solo homers and Doug Creek won his first Major-League start as the Giants held off the Oakland Athletics 6-4, gaining a split of their two-game interleague series.

Snow led off the fourth against starter Brad Rigby (0-2) with 11th homer of the season, giving San Francisco a 3-1 lead. Snow's second homer of the game, off reliever Carlos Reyes in the fifth, made it 6-2.

Creek (11-0), making his first appearance of the season, allowed four runs and four hits in 6 2/3 innings with five walks and a career-high seven strikeouts.

"I've never gotten a standing ovation, especially by that many people," Creek said.

Julian Tavaraz got the final out of the seventh and

Doug Henry worked a scoreless eighth before Rod Beck pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his National League-leading 27th save.

In San Diego, Steve Finley homered twice and drove in five runs and Greg Vaughn, rumored to be going to the Yankees in a trade, hit a two-run pinch homer to snap a sixth-inning tie as the Padres blew a seven-run lead but recovered for a 10-8 slugfest victory over the Seattle Mariners.

John Flaherty also homered for San Diego while Joey Cora, Edgar Martinez and Jay Buhner hit roundtrippers for Seattle.

In Anaheim, Hideo Nomo

allowed just three singles over six scoreless innings and Mike Piazza drove in a pair of runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the angels 8-2 to complete a season sweep of their free-way series.

The Dodgers took both games in Los Angeles last month and completed the two-game sweep in Anaheim by bashing out 11 hits against four Angels pitchers.

Nomo (8-7) struggled with his control, walking five and striking out six in winning for just the third time in his last nine starts.

Piazza extended his hitting streak to 10 games and is batting .461 (18-for-39).

Pacers sign 1st round pick Austin Croshere

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — The Indiana Pacers Thursday announced the signing of their first-round draft pick, forward Austin Croshere, who was the 12th overall selection in the 1997 NBA draft.

The former Providence star is the highest pick from last week's draft to come to terms with the NBA team that selected him. Ed Gray, the 22nd overall pick, signed with the Atlanta Hawks last Friday.

Croshere averaged 17.9 points per game this past season with the friars and boosted his numbers to 22.8 points and 5.8 rebounds in the NCAA tournament.

Croshere, who was coveted by new Pacers head coach Larry Bird, helped Providence advance to the regional finals before losing to eventual champions Arizona.

The Pacers hired the legendary Bird, an Indiana native and former superstar with the Boston Celtics, as their coach in May after Larry Bird left to coach the Philadelphia 76ers.

Juventus still have transfer market know-how

ROME (R) — When it comes to playing the transfer market Juventus, the "old lady" of Italian soccer, always seems to have a trick up her sleeve.

Wednesday's sale of Christian Vieri to Atletico Madrid reaped the Turin club a tidy profit of 27 billion lire (\$15.9 million) in a single year.

Atletico paid 34 billion lire (\$20 million) for the 23-year-old striker, making him the world's third most expensive player after Ronaldo, who signed for Internazionale last month, and England forward Alan Shearer.

In contrast, Juve paid just seven billion lire (\$4.1 million) to bring Vieri from Atalanta a season ago when he was still an uncapped centre forward with an unproven track record in Serie A.

After making only seven league appearances in two seasons at Turin, Vieri moved down to Serie B side Pisa in 1992.

Then followed two unsettled seasons playing for Ravenna and later Venice, both in Serie B, before moving back up to Atalanta for the 1995-96 season.

Since signing for Juventus Vieri earned a first international cap in March this year and played three more times for Italy before the end of the season, confirming the Turin club's ability to find gold where others see only stones.

It was not the first time the Italian champions have secured what appears to be an exceptional deal in the cut-and-thrust world of the international soccer market.

Vieri was bought last season to replace striker Fabrizio Ravanelli whom Juventus had sold to English premier league side Middlesbrough for \$11 million — a steep figure which raised a few eyebrows in England.

Although he sparkled intermittently, the 27-year-old Ravanelli could not save Middlesbrough from relegation and was dropped from the national squad for a recent tournament in France in favour of Vieri and fellow Juve striker Alessandro Del Piero.

Only a year before Juventus had sold captain Roberto Baggio to Milan after winning the "scudetto" (shield) in the 1994-5 season.

Since then Baggio's career hit the doldrums, losing both his national place and a regular first team spot at Milan which he is leaving next season.

The decision to sell Vieri on Wednesday showed that Juventus still believe they can be successful while selling

their top players — proved by winning the Italian league this season — and pocket a tidy sum in the process.

Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi, who announced the deal after weeks of denials over the move, said on Thursday the change of position on Vieri's future had been agreed by all parties.

"It was a unanimous decision," Moggi said. "Of course, since earlier statements some reflections were made which led to what happened."

He did not refer to the size of Atletico's offer as the deciding factor but commentators said the latest transfer showed Juventus were still one of the most shrewd clubs on the market.

Moggi had said Juventus would not sell Vieri nor Del Piero this season and instead concentrate on constructing a young side of which the two strikers were an integral part. "Others left Juventus because they were a certain age, they didn't guarantee us a future, they couldn't keep up with our ambitions," Moggi said earlier this year.

But comments by vice-president Roberto Benetton that every player had his price, which caused some embarrassment for Moggi, launched speculation that Juventus would sell Vieri if the package was right.

When Moggi announced the transfer on Wednesday, the most expensive ever for a player leaving the Serie A, he insisted Juventus had not wanted to sell Vieri but it had been his decision to leave.

Italian newspapers speculated over the real reasons on Thursday after Juventus seemed to deny they had sold Vieri against their will.

"Whatever it is, one thing is clear: Juventus sold Vieri because in the end it thinks it can be competitive without him," Gazzetta dello Sport said.

"Or maybe because of the problem of competition with other national strikers (within the team) or because of the obvious economic reasons."

Juventus signed Serie A top scorer Filippo Inzaghi from Atalanta last month. If Vieri had stayed there would have been competition for places up front with Inzaghi and Del Piero, a key figure in the club's rebirth over the past three seasons.

The club also announced on Wednesday they had signed Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca from Roma which means Juve's formidable first-choice forward line for next season appears complete even without Vieri.

Youth World Cup

Uruguay may ruin Argentina's party in today's final

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AFP) — Uruguay have the advantage of "home conditions" as they bid to win their first World Youth Football title against defending champions Argentina here on Saturday.

Uruguay, the only unbeaten team in the under-20 tournament, go into the all-South American final having played all their six matches so far at the same Shah Alam stadium.

Argentina, on the other hand, will be making their first appearance here after playing their league games at Johor Baru and the quarter and semi-finals at Kuching.

"We've got used to this place," Uruguayan coach Victor Pua said as his team trained at the 80,000-seater stadium. "It's like a second home to us."

"Hopefully, the people who have watched us here over the last two weeks will come again and back us."

The Argentinians will, however, be pleased to get away from Kuching, where spectators backed Brazil against them in the quarter-finals and then rooted for Ireland in the semi.

"It doesn't matter where we play," said Argentina's coach Jose Pekerman. "To be champions, you have to play at any venue and against any opponents. We've had two days to get used to this new place."

Pekerman, who predicted his team will retain the title after the 2-0 quarter-final win over Brazil, is a well-known man now — with ample reason.

Uruguay have looked solid with five wins in six matches so far, while Argentina were branded the

"chameleon champions" by one newspaper for their inconsistent form.

They were beaten 4-3 by Australia in the league, were brilliant against England and Brazil, but struggled to down spirited Ireland 1-0 in the semi-finals.

"We could have played better against Ireland," Pekerman admitted. "I hope to rectify the problem before the final. Hopefully the shock will jolt the boys."

He brushed aside questions whether the players will get huge monetary rewards if they retain the title they won at Qatar two years ago.

"There will be some reward, but nothing special. We will be playing for pride and that is more important than anything else," he said. Revenge is also an incentive. Argentina were beaten

1-0 by Uruguay in their first match of the south American qualifiers earlier this year and held to a 1-1 draw in the second.

Uruguay's Pua was understandably upbeat of his team's chances in their first ever world youth final.

"We have nothing to fear Argentina," he said. "I have the utmost respect for them because they are a very strong side, but we know each other very well. Psychologically, there is nothing to scare us."

The ultimate winner will be South America's football future.

This will be the third successive world youth title for a country from the region — Brazil won in 1993 and Argentina in 1995.

South America have won five of the 10 titles contested since the tournament was launched in 1977. European countries won four times while erstwhile Soviet Union took the inaugural title.

Brazil, in 1983 and 1985, and Portugal in 1989 and 1991, are the only teams to have won two tournaments in a row.

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Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AA5 TA98 07632 410854
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Pass 1NT Pass
2c Pass 7
What do you bid now?
Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
A2 TA4 CAK62 4AKQJ43
The bidding has proceeded:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1a Dbl 2a Pass
4a 7
What action do you take?
Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AJ10R 075 0Q9542 4454
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1c Dbl Pass 7
What do you bid now?
Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AK108 CAKQJ875 0K6 45
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Pass 2c Pass 7
What do you bid now?
Q. 5 - Both vulnerable as South you hold:
45 0E83 CAQ108764 4A4
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1c Pass 1A 7
What action do you take?
Q. 6 Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA5 0763 CAKQJ85 4A8
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1c Pass 1A 7
What action do you take?

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROJECT MANAGER
Tourism Development in the West Bank and Gaza
PAL/96/005

In the framework of its support programme for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the UNDP/PAPP is launching phase II of its technical assistance project to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA). The incumbent will:

1. Supervise, manage and monitor the activities and administration of the project, and ensure proper implementation of all its components, namely: Tourism Planning and Development, Tourism Marketing, Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Tourism Awareness.
2. Coordinate the relationship between the MOTA, the UNDP/PAPP and other involved institutions.
3. Coordinate, supervise and assist the activities of short term consultants.
4. Review the activities of those public and private sector organizations involved either directly or indirectly with tourism, and recommend measures to improve the overall levels of coordination, cooperation in the sector.

The Project Manager should have a degree in Science or Arts in the fields of Tourism Development and Management, and 6 to 12 years of work experience in a related field. Work experience with local Palestinian institutions and understanding of the institutional set-up of the Palestinian Authority would be a strong advantage. The Project Manager should have good and proven management skills. Proficiency in using computer for word-processing, and fluency in Arabic and English are required. Interested candidates should send their CV to the following address:

UNDP/PAPP, 4A, Ya'Kobi St., P.O. Box: 51359, Jerusalem.
Fax: 972 2 6280089
Reference: Project Manager PAL/96/005
Deadline for submission: 10 July 1997

REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR LAN INSTALLATION

The "Water Quality Improvement and Conservation" Project of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation are seeking sources for the installation of a Local Area Network (LAN) for Ministry's main building in Shmeissani, Amman, Jordan. The LAN will include over 600 drops and will include cabling, hubs, equipment racks, switches and installation hardware. Contractors will be pre-qualified before the issue of a tender. Interested offerors should pick up the pre-qualification package from:

the WQIC Project Assistant, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Building in Shmeissani, beginning 12:00 O'clock on Saturday July 5, 1997. Closing date for picking up the pre-qualification package is 12:00 O'clock July 15, 1997. Instructions on completing the pre-qualification package will be issued with the package.

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Germany passes first ever cyberspace law regulating enormous web content

BONN (AP) — Germany Friday passed the first country to pass a law regulating the free-wheeling global electronic space of the Internet.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government says the so-called multimedia law creates legal clarity that will help boost commercialisation of cyberspace and combat illegal uses of the Internet such as for pornography.

Critics say the law is an example of Germany's urge to regulate and may in fact

deter investors in Internet services because it does not state clearly to what extent the providers would be liable for content they don't control.

The law gained final approval in the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, an unusually swift six months after the government proposed it. It takes effect August 1.

"We are entering uncharted territory," said Joerg Appelhaus, spokesman for Germany's Research and Technology Ministry.

Controversially, the law says on-line providers can be prosecuted for offering a venue for illegal content if they do so knowingly and it is "technically possible and reasonable" to prevent it.

This could apply to forums and similar exchanges offered by on-line services without direct control over their content.

However, "the liability provisions for providers are a big unknown," said Christopher Kuner, an Frankfurt attorney specialising in cyberspace issues. "It

leaves a lot of things open."

The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany says liability for Internet services will have to be tested by court rulings, which "may cause prudent investors to hesitate."

But Research and Technology Minister Juergen Rueggers said a law was needed, partly to protect German children.

"That applies even to a network that knows no national borders," he said. "The Internet is not outside the reach of the law."

Labour deputy bids to limit Christian influence in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Parliamentarian Nissim Zivli has sparked a furious row in Israel by drawing up a bill aimed at stopping Christian missionaries bombarding Jews with Evangelical leaflets.

For Mr. Zivli, an opposition Labour deputy, American Evangelist Morris Cerullo's decision to mail his Evangelical teachings to 500,000 Jews in Israel last year constituted an infringement of their religious rights.

Mr. Zivli sees the draft law as a way of safeguarding the rights of Jews in the state set up to protect them from discrimination, but Christians have warned that the bill will restrict their religious freedom in Israel.

And while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opposition to the bill is expected to prevent its passage through parliament into law, Mr. Zivli has succeeded in awakening widespread antagonism to missionaries and some say to Christianity in general.

Mr. Zivli and the other co-sponsor of the legislation, Moshe Gafni of the United Torah Judaism Party, believe hundreds of disadvantaged Jews are converted to Christianity each year by missionaries working with "millions of dollars" provided by the churches.

"This bill is an attempt to restrict the religious, missionary activities in Israel," Mr. Zivli told AFP.

"It is an infringement on religious freedoms when a nice, smiling man comes to a poor Jew in a bad situation

and offers him help and then tries to brainwash him," Mr. Zivli added. "They work on his weaknesses."

For Mr. Zivli, Jews did not suffer Christian persecution and found Israel so they could be hoodwinked by propaganda insisting they picked the wrong spiritual path.

"It's amazing to me that I have to fight missionaries in Israel," Mr. Zivli said.

The law would prohibit the "possession, printing, reproduction, dissemination, distribution and importation of publications to induce religious conversion."

The bill has drawn hundreds of Christian protest letters from around the world — from the Vatican to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Jesse Helms.

The protests have warned the Israeli government that under the bill even the New Testament could become banned material.

Mr. Zivli, who says he has a copy of the Bible in his home, insists part of the bill will specifically exclude the New Testament from the restrictions.

Many Christians say Mr. Zivli and Mr. Gafni's bill represents an irrational, medieval fear that has opened a fresh wound in Christian-Jewish relations which have been on the mend in recent years.

Local Christian leaders say they understand the sensitivity of the issue and do not engage in missionary activities.

"We are available to serve but to infringe on someone else's religion is not accept-

able to us," said Paul Werger, a priest who serves with Jerusalem's Protestant Church of the Redeemer.

"If we did this, I think we would be thrown out of here very quickly," Mr. Werger said. "I wonder why those who devised the bill feel threatened."

Uri Mor, who oversees Christian issues at the Religious Affairs Ministry, said some churches "have not been sensitive enough" by trying to convert new immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia.

"I understand why there is a bill," he said. "It's because there are missionary activities in Israel. Western churches have to understand that they can not do this here."

But Mr. Mor himself has written a letter to the government stating his opposition to the legislation.

Charles Wagner, of the Evangelical Zionist group Bridges for Peace which distributes food to Israelis in need, believes the bill will only increase Jewish wariness of Christians in the Holy Land — even if it does not become law.

"We have already had the tires of one of our trucks slashed in Jerusalem," Mr. Wagner said. "The bill will create an atmosphere of suspicion within Israeli society."

But Mr. Gafni says Christians have nothing to fear. "They are trying to incite against us," Mr. Gafni, a religious Jew, told AFP. "Their rights won't be affected. In Israel, Judaism and democracy go together."

Pollard plans 3-way spy swap

TEL AVIV (AP) — Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard wants to arrange a spy swap between the United States, Israel, and Russia that would result in his release, his lawyer said Friday.

"There are talks on the way. The Russians are very serious about it. The question is whether the Israelis and Americans are serious," said Pollard's lawyer, Larry Dub.

According to Mr. Dub, Pollard would be released in exchange for a Russian scientist imprisoned in the United States for spying, Israel, in turn, would free seven Russian spies.

Mr. Dub said his client was hopeful that such an arrangement could be made but added that Pollard was "apprehensive that the Israelis would not favour such a deal."

Pollard, a former U.S. Navy analyst, was caught in 1985 for passing military secrets to Israel and is serving a life sentence.

"The Israeli government is doing whatever it can to free Pollard," said David Bar-Ilan, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Bar-Ilan would not comment, however, on any specific proposal.

The Pollard affair strained Israeli-U.S. relations although embarrassed Israeli leaders have maintained that Pollard's handlers were rogues and that the operation had no official sanction.

At a demonstration held here Wednesday to condemn the Sivas massacre on its fourth anniversary, more than a dozen people were lightly injured when two rival leftist groups fought first each other and then the police.

Mr. Nesin further angered the Islamists when he published in a leftist newspaper extracts from "The 100 Verses" by British author J. M. Rushdie, for whom Iran has issued a death sentence for blasphemy against Islam.

The fundam.ists later torched Madimak Hotel. The 37 died in the blaze while Mr. Nesin and several other intellectuals survived.

Temel Karamollaoğlu, the Islamist mayor of Sivas at the time, who had been publicly blamed over the incident, is now a parliamentary deputy and one of administrators of the pro-Islamist Welfare Party of former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Mr. Erbakan stepped down as



DECLARING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, LEBANESE STYLE: An elderly woman holds a poster of Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili and chants anti-government slogans during a rally held against the government in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley of Baalbek Friday. More than 2,000 farmers, labourers cheered in the main square of the ancient Bekaa town of Baalbek as Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili, a former leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) said three times: "We declare civil disobedience" (Reuters photo)

Israel mounted major operation to kill Abu Jihad in '88 — paper

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Four boats, a submarine, two helicopters and Israeli commandos mounted an operation to kill the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) number two, Khalil Wazir, in Tunis in 1988, the Maariv newspaper reported Friday.

The Israeli government has never confirmed its involvement in the assassination of Wazir, who was in charge of the Intifada, or uprising, against Israeli forces in occupied Palestinian territories.

But the Israeli daily said that the killing at Wazir's villa on the night of April 15, 1988, was mounted as a well planned, large scale

operation using detailed layouts of the building and tapped phone lines to indicate when the PLO leader would be there.

Some agents for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad were Tunisians under the impression they were working for European governments, the paper said.

The submarine cruising just outside Tunisian waters verified by periscope that the beach for the commando landing was clear before four boats ferried them to the shore.

Helicopters stood by to take the elite commandos had to be evacuated, the paper said.

The operation was directed by the deputy chief of staff at the time, Ehud Barak, who was recently elected leader of Israel's main opposition Labour Party, Maariv added.

The murder of Wazir, known to Palestinians as Abu Jihad, was aimed at breaking the intifada, which erupted in 1987 with a hail of rock-throwing by Palestinian demonstrators at Israeli forces in defiance of Israel's occupation of their land.

But the operation did not end the uprisings, which continued for several years until the signing of a peace accord between Israel and the PLO in 1993.

Seeking to quell unrest, Egypt to loan farmers buying money

CAIRO (AP) — The government has allocated \$29 million to help tenant farmers buy land, an apparent attempt to quell rising anger over a new law that could sharply increase rents.

The law, part of the government's drive to privatise the economy, removes rent controls from agricultural lands and allows landlords to charge market value. It takes effect on October 1.

The law has enraged farmers who fear they will have to pay exorbitant rents or even be driven off the land. In the worst clash, security forces and farmers fought Tuesday in southern Egypt, killing a 70-year-old farmer, a 14-year-old boy and a woman.

The government will make the loans available through state agricultural banks and distribute them to farmers who can provide some form of collateral.

Hassan Khedr, a senior banking official, was quoted as saying in Friday's edition of Al Akhbar newspaper.

The report did not say how much collateral must be provided.

Tenants wishing to buy up to 10 acres of land they have rented will be loaned 70 per cent of the land's price, he said.

They would repay the loan over seven years at an annual interest rate of up to 13 per cent. Mr. Khedr said. But tide to the land would remain with the bank until the loan was paid off, he said.



Mob volunteered to kill Castro for free in 1960s

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mobsters declined a \$150,000 CIA offer to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro with poison pills in the early 1960s but volunteered to do the job for free, according to newly released documents.

After contacts with the legendary mafioso Sam Giancana and an associate named John Roselli, the CIA in the autumn of 1960 approved payment of \$150,000 on completion of the operation.

But the CIA later decided to kill Castro, who had seized power in 1959. The payment was to be made to the actual killers. But an intermediary, private investigator Robert Mahon, reported that Roselli and Giancana emphatically stated that they wished no part of any payment, "the once top-secret memo says."

Although more than \$11,000 was paid out for expenses and communications equipment, the operation was called off after the failed April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by U.S.-backed Cuban exiles.

Down-on-his-luck Haitian strikes lottery gold

PORT ST. LUCIE (AP) — Carl Dorelian was so poor he had to borrow bus fare to get to Tallahassee. He had to get there to cash his winning lottery ticket worth nearly \$3.2 million. Since coming to Florida two years ago, Dorelian, a political refugee from Haiti, had a job. He has lived with his aunt, Anne Dorelian, in Port St. Lucie. He left his family behind in Haiti's former Haitian colony, which he has been working to get his family to Florida. Writing letters to President Bill Clinton and other officials. "This is truly a miracle from God," said Mr. Dorelian, who lent him the bus fare for the Tuesday trip. Dorelian, 48, will receive his prize in annual instalments of \$159,000 for the next 20 years. "It was just luck — without thinking — my own quick pick," he said of the winning numbers, 5-7-10-15-25-47.

Burglars bag human brain

WICKFORD (AP) — Burglars stole a human brain from a laboratory and left everything else untouched. The brain, kept in a plastic container in a liquid solution of formaldehyde, was taken from the laboratory in Wickford, east of London, sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, police said Thursday. "We understand the brain was a couple of years old and was kept for research purposes," said a police spokesman, speaking with customer anonymity. Police issued a public safety warning, saying that the formaldehyde solution could cause irritation to the skin, eyes and affect breathing and particularly dangerous if swallowed.

'Mike the Bite' moves next to Hannibal the Cannibal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Mike Tyson's notorious boxing championship earplug against Evander Holyfield has earned him an unprecedented move in the Hollywood Wax Museum. Tyson's statue was moved from the sports hall of fame to the chamber of horrors and is now exhibited next to Hannibal the Cannibal. "The Cannibal" is a gory character from the movie "Silence of the Lambs." They just came up with the idea to put him next to Hannibal, said a museum spokesman. "It's a sort of amusing."

Three shot militants in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police shot three militants hiding in a village in the southern Sinai during the Intifada. The militants were shot Saturday. The announcement came in the wake of a new government order to end violence against police.

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Turkey seeks death sentence for 38 Islamists who killed 37 leftists

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish state security prosecutor Friday sought the death sentence for 38 Islamist fundamentalists charged with setting a hotel ablaze and killing 37 left-wing intellectuals four years ago, the Anatolian news agency said.

The incident on July 2, 1993, was the worst fundamentalist-linked crime in modern Turkey's history. Scores of religious extremists set fire to the hotel in the central town of Sivas where the intellectuals were holding a conference. The 37 were burned to death.

In 1994, a court sentenced 27 suspects out of a total 124 on trial, to 15 years in jail for murder. The 11 others received lesser sentences.

But a higher appeals court

last December overturned the sentences and called for a new trial, calling the 1993 incident a "fundamentalist rebellion" that required more severe punishment.

The trial resumed in late April and the prosecutor Friday asked that the 38 suspects be punished on the more serious charge of "trying to forcefully change the constitutional regime," requesting capital punishment.

He also demanded up to 15-year sentences for 40 other suspects, asked that another six be retried and the rest be acquitted.

In the Sivas incident, hundreds of angry pro-Islamist protesters held a demonstration in the city centre after a leading leftist writer, Aziz Nesin, allegedly insulted the Koran at

a conference in the town. Mr. Nesin further angered the Islamists when he published in a leftist newspaper extracts from "The 100 Verses" by British author J. M. Rushdie, for whom Iran has issued a death sentence for blasphemy against Islam.

The fundam.ists later torched Madimak Hotel. The 37 died in the blaze while Mr. Nesin and several other intellectuals survived.

Temel Karamollaoğlu, the Islamist mayor of Sivas at the time, who had been publicly blamed over the incident, is now a parliamentary deputy and one of administrators of the pro-Islamist Welfare Party of former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Mr. Erbakan stepped down as

prime minister on June 18, ending a turbulent 12-month term which included major rifts with the powerful pro-secular military over creeping Islamisation in Turkey.

Islamist former Justice Minister Sevtok Kacan, a close aide to Mr. Erbakan, was one of the lawyers of the Sivas suspects before he took up the cabinet post in June last year. Turkey still keeps the capital punishment in its penal code, but no one has been executed since 1984.

At a demonstration held here Wednesday to condemn the Sivas massacre on its fourth anniversary, more than a dozen people were lightly injured when two rival leftist groups fought first each other and then the police.

many arrests 100 in sweep

Lebanese security officials said Saturday that a sweep of those arrested in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley came after 10,000 people in the region followed a call to join a civil disobedience movement. Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili, a leader of the radical wing of the Hizbollah, said the movement was poor to march on Beirut and was surrounded by a heavy deployment of police. Interior Minister Michel Sleiman said the movement was aimed at making the region a free zone for security forces in the region.

Number 6575

calls for settlements

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) called Saturday for an Arab summit to discuss Israel's settlement policy and salvage the peace process.

The PNA said the summit would be held in Ramallah, issued a call for a meeting of the Arab League and the peace process. It also called for a summit of the United Nations and the European Union.

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